

THE TIMES
PLAY THE £50,000 GAME
Latest scores and leaders
PAGES 22, 23



Belief in yesterday
David Sinclair on the new single
PAGE 17



SCHOOLS WEEK
TODAY: The complete league tables 24-page guide

Outside PR firm may be called in as aide returns to Palace duties

TV interview costs Princess her press chief

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE PRINCESS OF WALES is to lose her Buckingham Palace press secretary as a direct result of her *Panorama* interview shown on BBC television last night.

Geoffrey Crawford, deputy press secretary to the Queen, will withdraw his services to the Princess after her working visit to Argentina later this week, and will concentrate on working for other members of the Royal Family. The Palace said that the decision had been taken with the Queen's knowledge, and after discussion with the Princess.

Mr Crawford, 44, a former member of the Australian foreign service who has worked at the Palace since 1988, found his position untenable after the princess gave her interview to *Panorama* without his knowledge. The decision, however, was not Mr Crawford's alone, and is the first tangible sign of the Palace's desire to isolate the Princess after she broke the rules and claimed her right of free speech.

Mr Crawford has looked after the Princess's media interests since her separation from the Prince of Wales, accompanying her on foreign visits and on skiing holidays with her children to control the media circus which inevitably follows her everywhere. He will now concentrate on the rest of his job as deputy to

Charles Anson, press secretary to the Queen, looking after media arrangements for the Duke of York, Prince Edward, Princess Margaret and Princess Alexandra. Married with three children, Mr Crawford lives in a grace-and-favour apartment in St James's Palace, and follows a long tradition of

It is only fair that, like a princess in some sadistic fairytale, she should be free for one hour

— Libby Purves, page 18

Diary 18
Letters 19

having a member of a Commonwealth diplomatic service on the palace press office staff. He resigned his Australian post to become a full-time Palace employee.

The Princess is now left without any obvious support from the Palace except for her bodyguards from the Metropolitan Police royalty and diplomatic protection branch. Her private secretary, Patrick Jephson, who will also accompany her to Argentina, is an employee of the Duchy of

Cornwall, and his continued service is largely in the hands of the Prince of Wales. There was no suggestion last night that Mr Jephson would resign, although he, too, was kept in the dark about the *Panorama* interview.

Palace officials said last night that they would continue to give what help they could to the Princess in dealing with her press arrangements, although it is difficult to see what they can now do. The Princess is likely to approach an outside public relations consultant to handle her affairs, and to capitalise on what she doubtless sees as her new-found independence, as the Duchess of York did after her separation. Such a consultant would have to be paid by the Duchy of Cornwall, which funds the expenses of the Princess's public life.

With the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Royal Variety Performance, and the Princess herself attending a cancer charity function in central London, the Prince of Wales was the only leading player in the drama free to watch the hour-long documentary last night.

Passers-by were surprised yesterday to see his helicopter land at Kensington Palace, the home of his estranged wife. The Prince, who had flown from Highgrove, briefly entered the palace, and left by car again at 1.15 to host a Buckingham Palace lunch for King Hussain of Jordan. He is understood not to have met the Princess, although she was in the building at the time.

Earlier in the day, the Prince's friend Camilla Parker Bowles was seen at Highgrove, preceded by her horse box. She arrived at 10 am and re-emerged an hour later dressed in a blue hunting jacket to ride a chestnut mare to join the Beaufort Hunt at Leighton, nearby. The prince left at 12.15 pm to fly to London and had not returned by the time Mrs Parker Bowles went home in mid-afternoon.



The Prince arriving for lunch at Buckingham Palace



The Princess of Wales heading for the Chelsea Harbour Club yesterday morning

Private sector to build Britain's roads and hospitals

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

SUBSTANTIAL cuts in the Government's £2 billion road-building programme to pay for tax cuts were signalled last night when John Major promised a prolonged campaign to reduce public spending to nearer the levels of Japan and America.

The Prime Minister appeared to confirm speculation of a significant shift away from public to private financing of transport projects in the Budget next week, and cuts of up to £200 million in the roads programme during each of the next three years are forecast.

Addressing the Lord Mayor's banquet at Guildhall, London, Mr Major pinpointed transport as a "rich area for private finance". The initiative of the private sector had to be harnessed as the Government looked for new ways of delivering public services and capital investment, he said. "The State cannot and should not try to do everything."

That philosophy is also expected to be employed by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, today when he announces a big expansion in the use of private money to extend existing health service hospitals and to build new ones. Over the next six months ministers expect health trusts to approve dozens of schemes running into hundreds of millions of pounds.

At Guildhall, the Prime Minister said the Government's objective was to bring public spending — now around 42 per cent of national income — to below 40 per cent. At present it stood at some 10 per cent below the average for the rest of Europe and "I expect that gap to widen further over the coming years," Mr Major said. "We cannot afford to compare ourselves with our European neighbours alone. Both Amer-

ica and Japan spend less and tax less than we do."

Mr Major announced that the Roadlink consortium had won the competition to design, build, finance and operate the A69 between Newcastle and Carlisle. Three further road schemes would follow soon and more were being planned.

As expected, Mr Major used his speech to issue warnings about the single European currency. But he did it in the form of a series of questions, making plain that Britain should remain part of the debate without committing itself on whether to join up.

Referring particularly to the social chapter, Mr Major said that if others in Europe bound themselves into uncompetitive economic and social structures, Britain would not join them: "We are not going to put our economic success at risk."

A single currency would affect Britain, whether it was in or out, and it would change Europe fundamentally. The question of how it and the currencies of the rest of the EU would co-exist had to be addressed, as would the question of how the European institutions would serve the interests of those who adopted the single currency and those who did not.

"Those are the issues that must be answered before a single currency goes ahead. The price of error would be too high for Europe, individually and collectively. This is something all of us, even the most enthusiastic advocates, need to consider."

Mr Major said that formidable problems lay ahead, particularly with the "unaffordable" common agricultural policy, as Europe expanded. Europe must not become an economic museum, he said. "We must make it a powerhouse."

Slump in home loan lending

Mortgage lending has slumped to its lowest level since December 1979.

Figures released yesterday by the Building Societies Association show that net mortgage advances in October were £295 million compared with £614 million in the previous month and £300 million in December 1979.

The latest figures led to further calls by MPs from all parties for special measures to kick start the housing market in the Budget. Page 25

Islington schools at bottom of league

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE London borough whose schools were shunned by Tony Blair finishes bottom of the Government's examination league tables, which *The Times* publishes today in a 24-page supplement.

Overall the tables show a slight increase in the GCSE pass rate used to rank secondary schools, 43.5 per cent of 15-year-olds achieving five high grades nationally. But fewer than one in five reached that mark in the Labour leader's home borough of Islington.

Mr Blair sent his son to the grant-maintained London Oratory School, eight miles away in Fulham, where the pass rate was twice that of the highest-placed Islington school.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, said: "No wonder Tony Blair is using Conservative policies to send his own child out of this rotten borough. And yet he would deny other

parents, without his income level, the right to send their children to schools of their choice."

Phil Kelly, who chairs the borough's education committee, said: "These results are not acceptable. Schools and the council agree on this. We are pulling out all the stops to improve exam results."

The top authority was Kingston upon Thames, one of four areas where more than half of all 15-year-olds achieved the equivalent of five old O levels.

St Francis Xavier School in Richmond, North Yorkshire, more than doubled its pass rate to become England's most improved state school.

Labour has called for the Government to follow the practice adopted in *The Times* of including previous years' results to give parents a more informed picture.

Scottish results, page 2

Mackay warning over sentencing

The Lord Chancellor has joined other senior judges in giving a warning about the problems posed by Michael Howard's proposed new tough sentencing regime. Lord Mackay of Clashfern said there were "quite substantial difficulties" over the plans for minimum sentences for persistent burglars and drug dealers. Page 4

West jury are sent to hotel

The jury in the trial of Rosemary West was sent to a hotel last night after failing to agree verdicts on the ten murder counts against her. Mr Justice Mantell told them that they should not hurry their decision. Page 3

Immigration curb

Two million people a year will have to produce their passports or identity documents when they apply for jobs under plans published to curb asylum seekers and illegal immigration. Page 4

Bosnia peace talks miss US deadline

FROM TOM RHODES IN DAYTON, OHIO

THE American Government marshalled its full diplomatic force yesterday to try to seal a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the warring parties failed to meet a planned deadline for peace.

After 20 days of negotiations at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, substantial differences were said to remain between the Presidents of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia.

An air of pessimism settled on Dayton after Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and his fellow American negotiators called a recess to consider whether a substantive agreement was possible. The State Department had maintained that dialogue would not continue beyond yesterday.

Nevertheless, an advance White House team arrived to prepare for the possible arrival of President Clinton in the event of a breakthrough. Mr

Christopher had attempted to drag the three leaders across "the finishing line", until early yesterday, but a State Department official said that "several core issues were outstanding and substantial differences remained".

The latest snag was said to have been introduced when President Milosevic of Serbia demanded a further two to three per cent of territory for any new Bosnian Serb Republic. Mohamed Sacirbey, the Bosnian Foreign Minister, who offered to resign last weekend, said the Serbian leader had "deliberately tried to open areas that were already settled".

A draft agreement, which was to have been ready for initialling yesterday, would divide Bosnia between a Muslim/Croat Federation of 51 per cent and a Serb republic of 49 per cent.

Nato vanguard, page 14

PENHALIGON'S

LONDON 1870

Auntie, Mother,
Father, Godson,
Wife, Mistress,
Teacher, Brother,
Secretary, Boss,
Neighbour, Son,
Lover, Niece,
Nephew, Cousin,
Sister, Partner,
Accountant,
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TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48

LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
LIBBY PURVES	18

ARTS	34-36
CHESS & BRIDGE	45
COURT & SOCIAL	20

SPORT	43-46, 48
BODY AND MIND	16
LAW REPORT	42

Lottery board shrugs off criticism as £35m handed to charities

By DALIA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Lottery Charities Board yesterday awarded grants of more than £35 million to 548 charities and said it was confident it had diffused the controversy that surrounded its first round of grant-giving.

The board gave nearly £500,000 to a Birmingham charity that provides rehabilitation for the mentally ill and nearly

£400,000 to Arthritis Care. Smaller grants included £500 to a group that works with the disabled in East Sussex and £700 to a playgroup in Scunthorpe, Humberside.

In October the board handed out £12.5 million in grants and came under fire for giving money to groups working with immigrants.

The aim of the board's grants programme is to improve the quality of life of the poor. Chris Woodcock, chairman

of the Board's England committee, said: "Once again our grants reflect the diverse needs of society. We are making grants in every region of England which will bring real benefits to all kinds of voluntary groups." More money will be allocated next month.

Other beneficiaries yesterday included the Samaritans, Mencap, the Scouts and Guides, Citizens Advice Bureaux and the St John Ambulance. Mr Woodcock said the grants would stand up to close

scrutiny. He said: "We have approached these grants in exactly the same way as we approached the earlier ones. We live in a society that is diverse and our grants reflect that diversity." Officials denied that there had been an attempt to be politically correct. The aim was simply to spread cash where it was most needed, regardless of who the groups were working with.

Officials said they had received more than 11,000 applications for the first wave

of lottery grants. Charity groups applauded the allocation of money. Janet Morrison, director of policy at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said charities were starting to get back what the lottery had been taking away. "It's good to see grants going to small organisations who rely on collecting this and who were losing out most heavily to the lottery," she said.

The council estimates that charities will have lost more than £300 million to

the lottery during 1995. Miss Morrison added: "The lottery is starting to give back with one hand what it took away with the other and the grants are now starting to come thick and fast."

Susan Osborne of the Cancer Research Campaign said: "The public will be pleased that the lottery is moving towards the way they expected it to be run from the start. This shows they have listened to what people have said. It's wonderful news for good causes."

Taoiseach urged to 'break free' of nationalists

Major hopeful of Ulster peace summit this week

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR increased the pressure on Dublin for an early summit as London officials called for a display of "courage and imagination" to kickstart the Northern Ireland peace process.

Downing Street said Mr Major wanted to set a date for the postponed summit "as soon as possible", and other officials suggested it could be held as early as Friday. Senior ministers voiced hopes that John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, would not allow Sinn Féin to veto the process for a second time.

There was growing concern in the British Government, however, at what was seen as the unhelpful role of John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, in the present negotiations.

There was anger at his backing for Sinn Féin's refusal to accept Britain's insistence that the IRA should give up some weapons before being allowed into all-party talks. This was the main stumbling block which led to the cancellation of the Anglo-Irish summit in September, even though Mr Bruton had been prepared to go ahead at that stage.

Government sources said that Mr Hume appeared ready to allow his party to move too close to Sinn Féin: at its weekend conference there were calls, not put to the vote, for it to be ready to engage in an electoral pact with Sinn Féin. One source said: "The

nationalist community has suffered unspeakably from the IRA campaign in Northern Ireland. Many find it abhorrent that anyone should think of an alliance between those two parties."

Yesterday Dublin remained silent as Mr Bruton and his deputy, Dick Spring, had separate meetings with Gerry Adams and Mr Hume to discuss Mr Major's latest proposals.

It is understood that Dublin will be saying little while Mr Bruton attempts to refashion some of the proposals to make them more acceptable to Sinn Féin and the SDLP.

The two parties are disappointed that Mr Major has stood by his insistence that the IRA must decommission some of its arms before talks, and that the Prime Minister is only

prepared to set a target date for all-party talks. Sinn Féin and the SDLP insist that Britain must commit itself to a fixed date.

One senior Irish source said: "This deal is not quite good enough as far as we are concerned. But there are positive and helpful things in the proposals and we want to work on them."

The source added that it was vital the Prime Minister's proposals gained the support of the nationalist community in Northern Ireland. "It would be difficult to move ahead if Sinn Féin and the SDLP are offside on this."

Mr Major and Mr Bruton are likely to speak on the telephone today. One ministerial source said that whether Mr Bruton was prepared to "break free" of Mr Hume and

Mr Adams if necessary could be crucial to the success of the process.

A British official said yesterday: "It is the case that our proposals may not be easy for everyone, it would be surprising if they were. It has to be overcome by people showing a bit of courage and imagination. We are prepared to do that, let's see if others are."

Officials added that the ball was now in the Irish Prime Minister's court. The leaders of the four main churches in Ireland jointly condemned the "barbaric and immoral" punishment beatings carried by IRA and loyalist terrorists despite their ceasefires. The leaders said an end to the attacks would help to build confidence in Northern Ireland.

In a statement they said: "We share the disgust and concern of our clergy and people at the continuing so-called punishment beatings inflicted by paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland. Such barbaric incidents deserve the outright condemnation of all right-thinking people who desire to see a permanent peace and stability in our society."

The statement was issued by Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Robin Eames, the Primate of the Church of Ireland, Dr John Ross, the Presbyterian Moderator, and the Rev Christopher Walpole, President of the Methodist Church.



Bruton: meeting with Gerry Adams yesterday



Hume: anger at his moves towards Sinn Féin



Camilla Parker Bowles riding with the Beaufort Hunt yesterday. She changed into her hunting clothes at the Prince of Wales's home at Highgrove

Shetland school tops exam success league

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the most remote schools in Scotland, Anderson High in Shetland, has finished top of the national examination league tables for the second time in three years.

The school, which has 950 pupils, 200 of them in the fifth year, saw 53 per cent gain three Highers and a potential place at university this year. The national average was 20 per cent. Fourth-year pupils at Anderson were also high achievers with 94 per cent gaining five standard grade passes. The national average was 89 per cent.

Iain Spence, the head teacher, said: "Ethos is the key to this. We've got the right atmosphere in the school. Everyone works towards what is best for the pupils."

Raymond Robertson, the Scottish Office Education Minister, said the tables proved that standards of education in the country's schools were rising. "The publication of examination results has had a major impact in our schools: self-evaluation has become an integral part of the work of schools seeking to improve performance," he said.

The tables, compiled by the audit unit of HM Inspectors of Schools, show that more fourth-year pupils are sitting and passing Standard Grade examinations than ever before and more pupils are attaining five or more passes at Standard grade.

However, most parents will be interested in the results of Higher examinations, which are needed for university entrance. Independent schools outstrip the state sector with Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow topping the league with 97 per cent of pupils gaining three Highers compared with a state school average of 20 per cent.

Mr Robertson said: "I would ask the parent to look at the school his child is in, to compare it to schools in similar situations and see how they were performing. I don't think you can compare schools in isolation all over the country and, simply on the basis of exam results alone, come to any conclusions."

Exam league tables, 24-page supplement



Robertson: believes standards are rising

Fraud case against cashiers collapses

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO women charged with embezzling more than £500,000 from a firm of solicitors walked free from court yesterday after the case against them collapsed.

Eleanor Masson, 62, and Doreen Cruickshank, 55, had denied stealing £572,778 from Storie, Cruden and Simpson of Aberdeen. The Crown had claimed the cash was embezzled between January 1982 and February 1991 while the women worked as legal cashiers with the firm.

However, after only two witnesses had given evidence

at Aberdeen Sheriff Court, both the accused were acquitted by Sheriff Kenneth Forbes. The trial, which began on November 9, had been expected to last several months.

The women were freed after the Crown was unable to continue its case because of difficulties in presenting evidence of bank statements under the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings Act.

Sheriff Forbes rejected a Crown motion from Sandy Hutchison, Deputy Fiscal, asking for the case to be deserted temporarily and for an extension until next April to allow the prosecution to change its method of presenting evidence. After the ruling Mr Hutchison said the Crown would not be bringing any further evidence.

Finding both women not guilty, the Sheriff said the public interest had to be served by bringing the case to a logical conclusion. He said any extension to the case would have caused further distress to the accused.

Two jailed for border bombing

TWO men convicted of firing three mortar bombs at a border observation post weeks before last year's IRA ceasefire were each jailed for 16 years by Belfast Crown Court.

Joseph Brennan, 37, of Crossmaglen, and Thomas Marron, 21, of Silverbridge, both in South Armagh, denied the charges but offered no formal defence to them.

They were each given three concurrent 16-year jail terms for attempting to murder soldiers in the Glassdrummond Road observation post, firing the three mortars and possessing explosives on August 12.

Lord Justice MacDermott told them that it had been said many times before, that those who engaged in terrorist activity involving guns and explosives must expect and receive lengthy custodial sentences. He said that fortunately no one was injured by the potentially lethal devices which had failed to explode.

The court was told Brennan and Marron were seen setting off the mortars by troops in the look-out post.

Oxbridge whites stay ahead in law

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE legal profession still discriminates in favour of white Oxbridge students even where ethnic minorities have better qualifications than other universities, according to research by the Law Society.

As predicted by *The Times* yesterday, findings show that ethnic origin remains an "important factor" in determining which candidates succeed. The Policy Studies Institute also found that family links with the legal profession, relevant work experience, and a degree from Oxbridge gave candidates an advantage.

The Law Society said: "Taking account

of academic achievement, links to the profession and family background, candidates from ethnic minorities are less likely to gain a place on the legal practice course (for solicitors) and are particularly less likely to obtain a training contract with a law firm." Where candidates have average or below average academic achievements, the chances of ethnic minorities are reduced by about 40 per cent.

Law firms showed a strong preference for Oxbridge graduates, even where non-Oxbridge graduates had better academic qualifications. Students from the former polytechnics were particularly disadvantaged.

Competition for places is intense. Two

out of five students applying for a trainee contract with a law firm failed to secure an offer. Lack of money was found to be a further barrier, although students were prepared to make sacrifices.

Financial problems were the "principal reason" why many students did not take up a legal career after their degree. Three-quarters had debts of £5,000 or more, despite there being no guarantee of securing a place in a law firm or barristers' chambers at the end of their studies. The survey is part of a major study following the progress of 3,000 law students.

Law, pages 37-39

Scots back Spain's attack on cider brandy

SPAIN has objected to British use of the term "cider brandy" to describe spirits distilled from apples — and has won support for its case from Scotland.

The Spaniards have asked for an urgent change in EU rules that define the drink and are challenging the Somerset Cider Brandy Company to prove its right to use the description.

Julian Temperley, the company chairman, said yesterday: "As far as I can see we are the only people in the frame. We are being targeted when cherry brandy, apricot brandy and peach brandy is not. It is going to cost us thousands of pounds to fight this."

Mr Temperley also accused the Scotch Whisky Association of "traitorously" expressed "considerable sympathy" for the Spanish case in a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture.

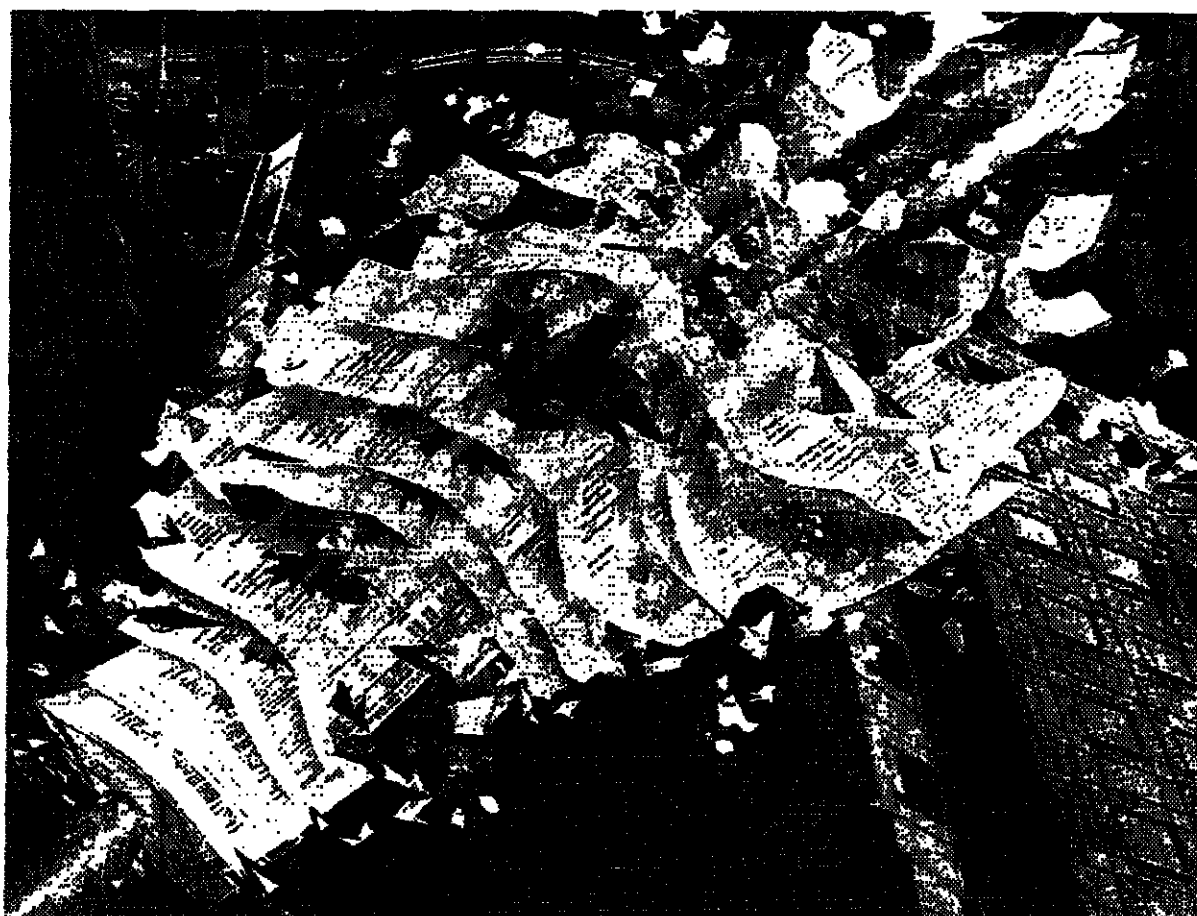
Tim Jackson, director of the association's commercial department, wrote in his letter that since brandy was defined by the regulation as being distilled from wine, the term cider brandy was "contradictory and misleading".

But Mr Temperley countered: "This is the only mature spirit England has. It is part of a long and proud tradition of our apple heritage. Our neighbours north of the border are betraying us."

Mr Temperley, whose orchards produce 60,000 bottles of cider brandy a year, fears that his business could be ruined if the Spanish objections are upheld. "We would have to have a £100,000 bonfire of packaging, labels, leaflets and publicity material and our company would have to change its name."

THE MATTHEW PARRIS COLUMN IS ON PAGE 4

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Television campaigner accuses police and prosecution as judges quash conviction

Man cleared after serving seven years for murder

By TIM JONES

LAWYERS acting for a man who was cleared of murder yesterday after serving seven years of a life sentence are to seek compensation from the Home Office for a miscarriage of justice.

After the decision, Sam Hill, 29, hugged David Smith, his best friend, who had told judges at an earlier appeal that he had been responsible for the fatal attack which led to Mr Hill's conviction.

Mr Hill was convicted at Winchester Crown Court in December 1988 of murdering Malcolm Barker with a single blow from a baseball bat when a row over an adulterous affair led to a battle between two gangs on a council estate at Bordon, Hampshire.

Yesterday, the Court of Appeal ruled the judge at the trial of Mr Hill did not properly direct the jury on the question of identification and his conviction therefore was unsafe and unsatisfactory. An earlier appeal against conviction was rejected in spite of evidence from Mr Smith that he had struck the blow in self-defence. At that hearing, the judges

suggested the two men were trying to pervert the course of justice.

The case, which became known as the Bordon baseball bat murder, was taken up by BBC Television's *Rough Justice* programme and was referred back to the court by the Home Secretary in the light of fresh grounds for appeal and previously undisclosed evidence.

Yesterday, after hearing just one of the grounds for appeal, the three judges quashed the conviction and ordered Mr Hill to be released. Lord Justice Otton, sitting with Mr Justice Holland and Mr Justice Sachs, said: "We have come to the conclusion that the direction on identification was, in the state of the law as it is now declared to be, inadequate so as to amount to a material irregularity."

Their full reasons will be given later, but the ruling was based solely on an insufficient direction by the trial judge on how the jury should approach evidence from witnesses who had only a "fleeting glance" of the assailant. Michael Mans-



Sam Hill is greeted by his mother Ann and sister Sian Forrester after being released on appeal in a case known as the Bordon baseball bat murder

field, QC, for Mr Hill, said his client did not wish to put forward his other grounds of appeal although he did not withdraw them.

"He does not wish to put the families of all concerned, his own family, the Smith family and the Barker family, through any more stress or consume any more public time and money on the matter," he

said. As he walked from court, Mr Hill said: "It seems that at last justice has been done and I am delighted to be out. My best years have been taken away from me and I will be seeking compensation for this miscarriage of justice."

Mr Smith, who served three years for causing actual bodily harm, said: "He served time for something I admitted. I

will never know why the police and the courts did not believe me. I was after all admitting that through my actions someone had died. What did they think I could gain by admitting my guilt?"

Ann Hill, the cleared man's mother, who lost her job partly because of the stress of the case, said the family would now be leaving their home at

Whitehill, Bordon, to seek a fresh start. Mrs Hill, who visited her son virtually every week of his imprisonment, said: "This is a great Christmas present. I never lost faith."

Sian Forrester, his sister, said that while he was in prison her brother had found his vocation and was hoping to work as a potter. John

Ware, the presenter of *Rough Justice*, said: "Sam Hill has spent seven years in jail for a murder of which he is completely innocent."

"Had the police investigated this case properly in the first place, he would never have been charged with murder. The police and prosecution now have some very serious questions to answer."

TV soap jogged memory of girl's murder

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUILDER who strangled his teenage lover and buried her in a shallow grave 16 years ago was jailed for life yesterday after an episode of the TV soap opera *Brookside* led to his undoing.

The bones of Dawn Falconer, 17, were found in February after David Sharpe's eldest son, his memory jogged by the story of a man being murdered and buried under a patio, called the police.

Sharpe, 54, of Walsall, West Midlands, pleaded guilty at Shrewsbury Crown Court to the murder of Miss Falconer.

Estella Hindley, QC, for the prosecution, said the girl and her family moved next door to Sharpe in 1978. "Sharpe began to take a more than neighbourly interest in her despite being old enough to be her father," she said.

She moved in with Sharpe and despite the age gap there was talk of marriage. However, strains developed in the relationship and Sharpe told Miss Falconer she would have to return home. During a row, he put his hands round her neck and strangled her, the court heard in his statement to police. "I did not mean to do it," he said.

Miss Hindley said Sharpe had snapped under the domestic pressure of both the relationship and bringing up a family of four alone.

West jurors in hotel as wait begins for verdicts

By BILL FROST AND RICHARD DUCE

THE jurors in the trial of Rosemary West were sent to a hotel last night after nearly five hours of deliberation over the ten murder charges.

Before sending them out to begin considering their verdicts at 11.44am, the judge, Mr Justice Mantell, told the four women and seven men at Winchester Crown Court that they should consider whether Mrs West, 41, had lied to them from the witness box.

"If you think there could be an innocent explanation ... take no notice," he said. "But if you are sure she lied for some other reason ... out of a consciousness of guilt or to deflect inquiries and mislead, then the fact they were told may be evidence going to support the prosecution."

The judge reminded the jury that Mrs West had claimed to have heard from her daughter Heather some time after her disappearance from 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, in June 1987. In fact, the 16-year-old was already dead, dismembered and buried beneath a patio at the bottom of the garden.

Mrs West has denied killing ten girls and young women, including her daughter. Mr Justice Mantell told the jury that they should not hurry their decision. Deliberations resume this morning.

Neighbour wins legal fight over cockerels' crow

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A COURT resounded to the crowing of cockerels yesterday as two neighbours living on a remote Scottish farm fought a legal battle over the birds.

Michael Bateman, who was seeking a noise abatement order against Michael Ayres, a Royal Navy Commander, played a five-minute tape recording of Mr Ayres's cockerels to Dumbarton District Court.

The court was told that Mr Bateman sold the farmhouse in Glen Frulin, near Helensburgh, Strathclyde, to Commander Ayres three years ago. Mr Bateman and his wife Marie moved into a converted barn on the farm.

Mr Bateman admitted that when the house was put on the market it was described by the agents as a "traditional Scottish hill-sheep farmhouse". But, he said, "It is patently obvious that it was not a suitable place for the introduction and containment of persistently noisy farm animals. I sold it to Mr Ayres as a dwelling house and garden and for that purpose alone."

Commander Ayres, who is stationed at the Clyde submarine base, told the court he had searched for over a year to find a suitable home in preparation for his retirement from the Navy next year. "It suited us perfectly. My wife loves

animals and we introduced ducks, rabbits, a goose, dogs, cats, cockerels and an abandoned lamb."

Mr Bateman, who brought the action under the Civic Government Act (Annoying Creatures Provisions), said the cockerels screamed every day of the year for an average of seven hours.

Playing his recording of the cockerels, Mr Bateman said: "It's that noise that has driven us nuts for the past year. We can't even sit out in our garden in the summer."

Commander Ayres said: "Mr Bateman sold me a farmhouse. He chooses to live in a rural location and he must accept the country noises that go with it."

During the hearing the justice, Mr Dickson, made the 30-mile round trip to the farmhouse to see and hear the cockerels for himself. He eventually ruled in Mr Bateman's favour but said the problem was not as serious as had been claimed. He delayed making an order so that he could seek expert advice.

Mr Bateman said: "I'm disappointed that the magistrate did not go as far as I had hoped. At the end of the day we will still have to live as neighbours. I bear Mr Ayres no ill will, but we just cannot live with the noise."

Student elected to synod will be youngest member

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A STUDENT has become the youngest person to be elected to the General Synod of the Church of England. Helen Jarvis, 22, who is studying for a doctorate in theology at the University of Kent at Canterbury, was urged by clergy to stand for the House of Laity, but said she was stunned to be elected.

She is among dozens of new members who will join the synod for the first time when its new five-yearly group of sessions is opened by the Queen next week.

Miss Jarvis said: "The idea was put to me that I should try to get on the General Synod. I was amazed when I was accepted. I am really looking forward to the challenge."

She joins the synod as it faces a controversial debate on proposals to reorganise the Church's management structure, the most contentious issue to come before it since the ordination of women priests.

Miss Jarvis, who goes to



Helen Jarvis: keep-fit classes and nightclubs

keep-fit classes and says she likes nightclubs, divides her time between her love of pop music and her work for the Church.

"It is important that as a young person I am not a token representative. I can't speak for all young people. I have to speak for myself and from my own experience," she said.

"The synod really needs to get a good balance. They need younger people but

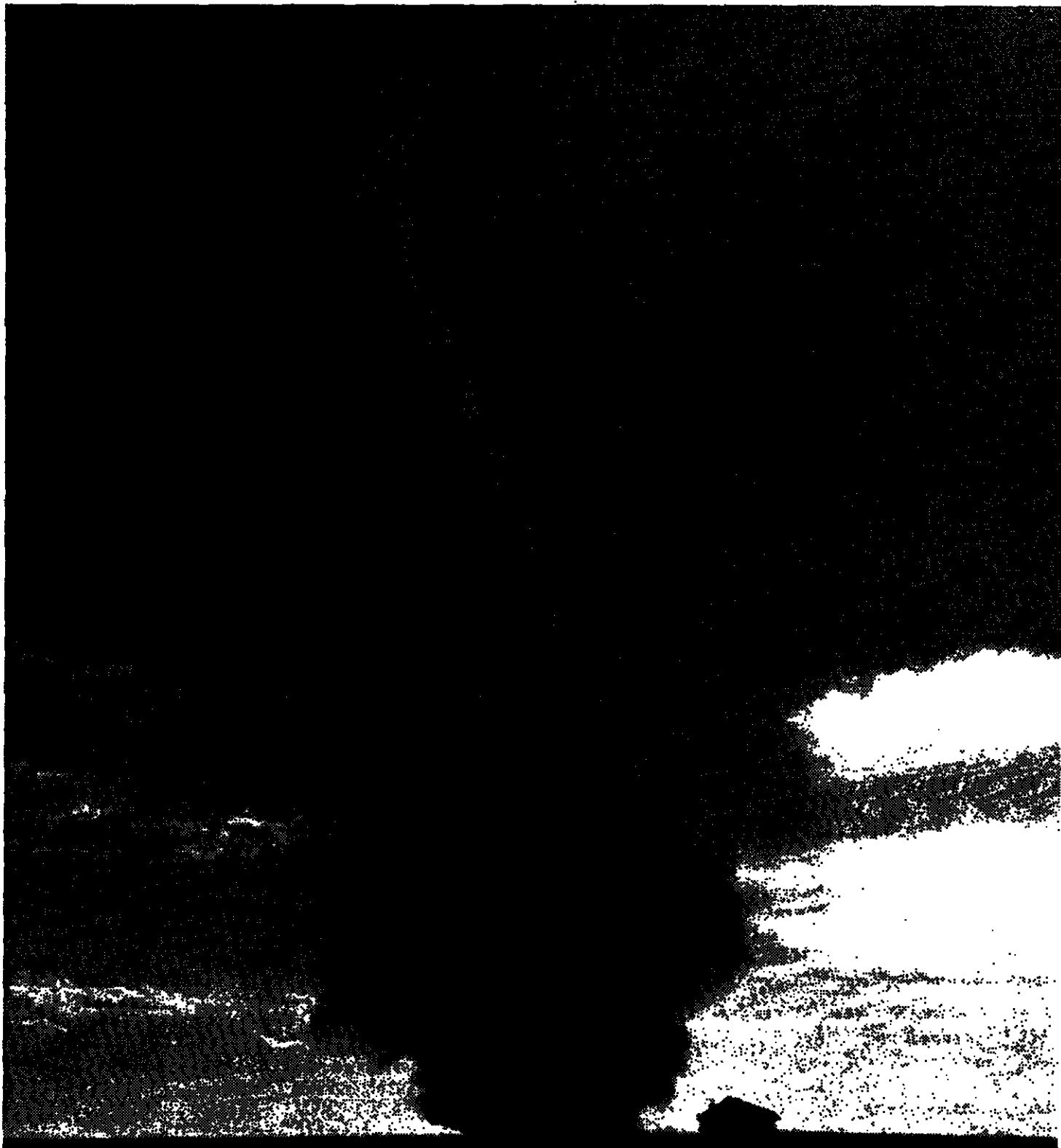
can't play down the experience of older members."

Miss Jarvis's election to represent the Rochester diocese in Kent will be seen by many as an opportunity for the Church to maintain links with young people. Her mother, Kay Jarvis, 50, said: "She is just what the Church needs. She is not the bespectacled prim type of person, not what a lot of people might expect. She is a real person. She goes to nightclubs, likes dancing and goes to keep-fit classes."

Miss Jarvis, who on Saturdays works as a garage attendant to pay her rent, was picked out early on as a hopeful for the synod by members of her own parish of St Mary's at Rainham. She said: "At this stage I don't want to go into the clergy. I hope to enjoy my time dealing with some of the big issues in the Church today such as inner-city deprivation and family life. It will be a great honour. Friends of mine who are not involved in the Church say that it is not for them but they are not at all surprised that I am doing it."

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Bogus application as political tribes search for safe place to hide

ASYLUM is defined as a "place of refuge". Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, came to Westminster yesterday to unveil plans for "bogus asylum-seekers". His Labour Shadow, Jack Straw, came to challenge him.

Though the two men differed sharply, they did seem to agree that bogus asylum-seekers were foreigners, quite possibly African or Asian ones. To the rest of us it was plain that not one, not two, but three distinct groups of bogus asylum-seekers were

in play. First, there were the huddled masses of people who could not speak English properly, from abroad. All pretended to be concerned for those alone.

Second, there was a group whose English is fluent, whose passports are British, but who are desperately seeking a place to hide. This tribe is called the Conservative Party: a ragged army of unfortunates, down on their luck and persecuted mercilessly by Fate, the Press, the Opposition and the electorate. Third was a group whose

fight was equally pitiable. Her Majesty's Principal Opposition (*alias* the Labour Party) was trying to escape from the logic of its own position.

Menaced by Tory taunts that it is "soft on immigrants", threatened by its own supporters lest it turn "hard" on immigrants, and paralysed by fear of voters, this refugee grouping (led yesterday by Jack Straw) found itself caught between a rock and a hard place. Straw ran but he could not hide.

Each of the Commons's



MATTHEW PARKER
POLITICAL SKETCH

two groups of bogus asylum-seekers was pinning its hopes on a different refuge. Michael Howard (cool, poised, preened and polished yesterday: white with a Hint of Menace) pointed his tribe to a place of safety called "Asylum and Immigration Bill 1995". Howard had come to offer an outline map and early directions. Implicit was the promise that this measure will prove a sort of legislative Golan Heights from which government members will be able to shell the Labour Party.

"We should be a haven, not a honeypot," he yodelled. But he spoke as though from the honeypot, on behalf of the Labour's tribe rested their

hopes on an exotic last resort called "a Special Standing Committee". If Mr Straw mentioned this committee once, he mentioned it a dozen times. Did he support the Bill? It was not clear, but he certainly supported a Special Standing Committee.

How would Labour vote? Nobody knew, but they would undoubtedly have voted for a Special Standing Committee.

What changes might the Opposition desire in the Bill? They could only say that, whatever those changes

might be, they could be revealed in a Special Standing Committee.

Mr Straw had only to mention the Special Standing Committee to draw cheers and hear-hears from his otherwise rather tentative back benches.

One begins to wonder whether not just this, but the whole range of Labour's policies might be replaced by a Special Standing Committee, to be convened after the election. Rather than reply to the

Chancellor's Budget proposals next week, maybe Gordon Brown could propose a Special Standing Committee to consider them?

Madam Speaker surveyed the bogus to her left and the bogus to her right with her usual impartiality, but (at Tam Dalyell's invitation) aimed a perplexed question at Mr Howard. Why did his statement have to be made immediately, "rather than tomorrow, or later, at Second Reading"?

Miss Boothroyd's innocence can be touching.

Lord Chancellor backs judges' concerns on tough sentencing

Mackay sees drawbacks in Howard's prison policy

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor joined forces with other senior judges yesterday in voicing concern at problems posed by Michael Howard's proposed tougher sentencing regime. In an interview with *The Times*, Lord Mackay of Clashfern spoke of "quite substantial difficulties" over the Home Secretary's plans for minimum sentences for persistent burglars and drug dealers.

He suggested that Mr Howard would need to address these problems before publishing details in a Green Paper. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, has already criticised the proposals as placing a fetter on judicial discretion.

Lord Mackay indicated he had sympathy with the views of senior judges over the practicalities of the proposals. Although minimum sentences already exist for some minor offences, such as in motoring, he said: "There are quite substantial difficulties in the law of minimum sentences in some other circumstances, because there are often exceptional cases. I would expect that Michael Howard would wish to put forward ways of dealing with that."

Lord Mackay was making his first public comment on the tougher regime announced by Mr Howard at the Conservative party conference. Speaking not as a judge but as a senior member of the executive, he emphasised that although Lord Taylor was entitled to put his views, it was for Parliament to decide sentencing policy.

"The Lord Chief Justice was simply pointing out the risk in his opinion. The question is one for Parliament, not for the

Lord Chief Justice to determine. He is entitled to his view, and no doubt if a bill was put before Parliament, he would wish to express that view in the House of Lords where he is a peer. Michael Howard is entitled to put that [proposal] forward if he wishes to and to argue it out in Parliament."

Lord Mackay added that his Cabinet colleague had not been talking about the "detail" of the proposals. "He would obviously wish to put forward a consultation paper. There are certain matters of considerable importance to be solved in relation to problems of this kind - detailed proposals will have to address those."

Lord Taylor had not been dissenting from the proposal that there should be "honesty in sentencing", linking sentences to the time a prisoner serves. Rather, he was expressing concern about limits on judicial discretion, said Lord Mackay.

In a broad-ranging interview, the Lord Chancellor made clear that he still intends to press ahead with the main planks of his Green Paper on legal aid, including the controversial proposed cap - or pre-determined budget - on criminal legal aid. It was "very important" to try to achieve this, he said, although the task was not easy. "I certainly think it is wise, if possible, to have a pre-determined budget for legal aid as a whole." He gave no indication that he planned to modify proposals for law firms or advice agencies who were franchised to offer legal aid services to instruct and pay barristers. This is being strongly resisted by the Bar.



Lord Mackay yesterday: said Home Secretary must address substantial difficulties

who fear that solicitors will not instruct counsel but do all the work themselves.

That was the arrangement "so far as non-legal aid work was concerned", Lord Mackay said. He believed the same could apply for legal aid, provided there were safeguards that the client had the best services.

Commenting on calls for more judges from Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls,

and from Lord Donaldson of Lynton, former Master of the Rolls, to cut the backlog in the Court of Appeal civil division, the Lord Chancellor said he was sympathetic and would consider what they had said. But he gave no pledge that he would obtain money for more Court of Appeal judges.

"Obviously I want to consider judicial manpower as carefully as I can. The man-

power of the Court of Appeal has gone up substantially during my term of office. The requirement for more has been informed from time to time."

He was examining the "resource implications" of Lord Woolf's proposals to reform civil justice. As well as lifting limits on the small claims court, Lord Mackay said he was considering matters such as further training of judges.

Millions to be checked under migrant curbs

By RICHARD FORD AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

TWO million people a year will have to produce their passports or identity documents when they apply for jobs under plans published yesterday to curb asylum-seekers and illegal immigration.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said urgent action was needed, as Britain had become "far too attractive a destination for bogus asylum-seekers and other illegal immigrants". He insisted that Britain would continue its tradition of giving refuge to those in genuine fear of persecution. His plans were aimed

at creating a "fair but firm" immigration policy that would make Britain a "haven, not a honeypot" for asylum-seekers, he said.

Mr Howard fought off opposition accusations that he was playing the race card but his controversial proposals are likely to make race a key issue in the run-up to the general election. In a low-key Commons statement, Mr Howard unveiled his package of measures and criminal sanctions that include a seven-year jail sentence for people convicted of illegal immigration rackets. Under his proposals it will become a criminal offence to employ an illegal immigrant, with employers facing a fine of

up to £5,000. The burden of policing the system will cost industry an estimated £25 million to set up, with an annual bill of £11.4 million.

In a consultation paper released by the Home Office it is estimated that each year two million people will be expected to produce a passport or other identity papers for prospective employers. Businessmen will not be expected to inform the police about people who fail to produce identity documents.

Employers will be expected to ask for a National Insurance number and if one is not produced, a full explanation or other documents.

The other key proposal in the package is the creation of a "white list" of countries deemed to be safe and from which asylum applications will be presumed to be unfounded. Although the Home Secretary refused to disclose countries on the list, it is likely to include Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, India, Pakistan and Ghana. The Government will not list Nigeria, Algeria or Sri Lanka, which are all undergoing internal disturbances.

Asylum seekers from a country on the list will have his or her case dealt with on an individual basis but because the claim is deemed to be unfounded the burden of proof will be on the applicant.

An asylum applicant who arrives in Britain having passed through a "safe" country such as France or Germany will be deported within 24 hours.

The CBI and Institute of Directors reacted coolly last night to Mr Howard's plan to punish employers who hire illegal immigrants. An institute spokeswoman said: "We would be concerned if costs of this magnitude are imposed on business." The CBI said there should be a clear distinction between the accidental and the deliberate employment of illegal immigrants.

Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said the measure was an historic shift towards internal immigration controls.

Vauxhall car workers threaten to strike

Leaders of 7,500 Vauxhall manual car workers are expected to seek a fresh meeting with management today after union members voted four to one to strike over a 3.5 per cent pay rise offer.

Workers at Luton in Bedfordshire and Ellesmere Port on Merseyside voted 5,201 to 1,425 to reject the two-year package. Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "If they fail to deliver a substantial improvement then industrial action is inevitable. Our members feel so strongly we will have difficulty restraining them from taking industrial action."

Vauxhall, the British arm of General Motors, has offered the 3.5 per cent rise in the first year and a rise in line with inflation in the second. Combined with an extra day's holiday and improved sickness benefits, and a cut-price car scheme, the company says the rise will be worth 10 per cent over two years.

Meningitis test

Meningococcal meningitis has killed five people in the past seven weeks. The toll included two 15-year-olds from City School in Lincoln. A girl pupil died three weeks ago and a boy became ill at the weekend. Other pupils and staff will have health tests today. A man aged 40 is being treated for the disease in Lincoln hospital.

Kegworth record

A promising young boxer from Northern Ireland, who was left brain-damaged and partially paralysed after the Kegworth air disaster, was awarded record damages of £142,000 in the High Court yesterday. Stephen McCoy, now 23, was 16 when the Boeing 737 London-to-Belfast shuttle crashed on the M1 in 1989 with the loss of 47 lives.

Nanny is free

A nanny has been freed from house arrest in Cambodia, where her employer, Prince Norodom Sirivudh, was accused of attempting to assassinate the country's co-premier, Janet McDonnell, 35, from Kilmarnock, Strathclyde, is staying on for the time being to look after the three children in her care. The Foreign Office confirmed.

Royal progress

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother had a "quiet and very satisfactory weekend" recuperating from her hip replacement operation in hospital in London, Buckingham Palace said. "Her Majesty has become more mobile and is now walking outside her room," a spokesman said. There will be no further bulletins until Thursday.

£7m for Oxford

A £7 million banking fortune has been bequeathed to Oxford University for 24 annual scholarships. The money was left by Jane Ledig-Kowohl in memory of her father, Joseph Scatcherd, a Cambridge graduate. The scholarships will allow up to 12 European students to study at the university and 12 Oxford students to spend a year in Europe.

Divorce backed

The Irish Government's attempt to secure approval for the scrapping of laws against divorce won the cross-border endorsement yesterday of John Hume, head of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. He directed his plea at what he called "the voter's sense of fair play". Ireland votes in a referendum on the subject on Friday.

CORRECTION

The sale of Princess Salimah Aga Khan's jewels (report, November 16) was conducted by Christie's in Geneva.

Police apology for Mawhinney delay

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICE officer has personally apologised to Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party Chairman, and Alan Duncan, his parliamentary private secretary, for an 18-minute delay in responding to 999 calls about an attack by demonstrators.

Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, told MPs yesterday that a "human error let us down" as officers responded to a "disgraceful" incident. He said the officer in charge of responding to calls made by Mr Duncan has written to the two men to apologise.

Dr Mawhinney had paint thrown at him last week near Parliament after the Queen's Speech by demonstrators angry at the Government's planned legislation on immigration and asylum seekers. Television cameras recorded Mr Duncan fruitlessly seeking help on his mobile telephone and trying to detain several of the demonstrators.

Sir Paul was asked to explain what had happened as he gave evidence yesterday to the Public Accounts Committee on a report by the National Audit Office covering police responses to the public.

Answering a question from Robert Sheldon, the Labour chairman of the committee, Sir Paul said he had listened to recordings made by police of the telephone calls. Mr Duncan had acted "correctly and courageously throughout".

The 999 call was picked up by an emergency operator in Newcastle covering the mobile telephone system and then passed to police. The officer who took the first call had misjudged what to do and by trying to give it special attention had passed it, wrongly, to the special centre dealing with the State Opening, which was over. By doing so he had delayed the police response.

The commissioner said both the officers involved and the Yard generally were very distressed by the incident.

Nureyev's devotees beat path to auction

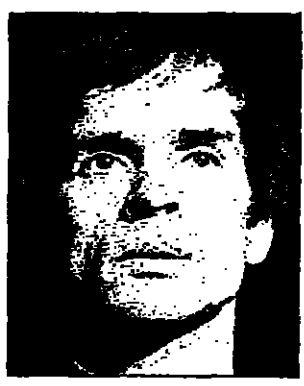
FANS of Rudolf Nureyev outbid international dealers at a sale of the ballet star's possessions yesterday. Their eagerness to own a memento of their idol pushed prices well above estimates.

The contents of Nureyev's main home, in Paris, are being sold at a two-day sale at Christie's, London. Nearly 150 items of clothing, from 18th-century Chinese silk robes to a modern American bomber jacket, and ephemerata fetched £194,500 yesterday against an expected £80,000.

A private collector paid £12,650 for three 18th-century gaming purses, against a pre-sale estimate of about £400. A James Wyatt pencil sketch of Nureyev, estimated at £300 to £500, fetched £4,830.

Christie's said: "It is exceeding our wildest expectations. The saleroom is packed, with lots of new buyers. Nearly all of it is going to collectors."

The sale continued last



Nureyev: Paris flat was his principal home

night with costumes from 1960s productions of *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, which had four-figure estimates of up to £8,000. Today Nureyev's paintings, musical instruments, sculptures, carpets and furniture will go under the hammer.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the foundation established by the dancer in 1975 to promote ballet.

Nureyev's sumptuous apartment at 23 Quai Voltaire was his principal home for 14 years until his death from an AIDS-related illness in 1993. The contents of his New York apartment were auctioned for £5 million last January.

Lab staff who worked with rodents win asthma claim

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

FOUR laboratory technicians at Glasgow University who worked with rabbits, mice, rats and guinea pigs have been awarded a total of £200,000 in out-of-court settlements after they developed asthma. The case is thought to be the first of its kind in Britain.

The three men and one woman developed allergic asthma after caring for the animals in badly ventilated laboratories. They say the disease was exacerbated by animal fur, dust, and excreta and allege that they were not provided with adequate protective clothing. Glasgow University admitted liability after four separate actions were launched in the Court of Session.

The technicians' jobs involved feeding animals, cleaning cages and taking blood samples from the animals. Phil Higgins, 44, who worked as an animal technician for the university for 27 years,

said: "Following a series of tests it was eventually established that my worsening asthma was linked to an allergy to rabbits."

"My employers were aware of this, yet I was moved to the animal house at Glasgow Royal Infirmary which mainly housed rabbits."

"Not surprisingly my asthma became worse. I was pensioned off on the grounds of ill-health two years ago and have not been able to find a job since."

Jim Younger, 39, who left school and trained as an animal technician at the university, worked for the Department of Pharmacology for 20 years, looking after rats, mice, rabbits and guinea pigs in the animal house. "I first began to have breathing problems in the 1970s. It gradually became worse. My doctor diagnosed asthma and said it was probably caused by the animals I worked with. It got so bad that I had to give up my job two

years ago. I was re-employed as a photographer by the university on a temporary basis but last summer I was pensioned off on the grounds of ill-health and since then I have been unable to find another job."

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, which backed the men, said the case set a precedent. The men were provided with rubber gloves but did not generally wear them because they pulled the animals' fur and caused them pain. Masks were provided but did not filter out the allergens that caused the illness.

Last night the university said it regretted the ill health of the four technicians. It had introduced health checks and screenings for employees working with animals. New vacuum-cleaning equipment has been installed and disposable respirators and ventilated visor helmets were available for staff.

Anti-hunt group split by fox-hunting sympathies

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's oldest anti-hunting pressure group was in turmoil yesterday after its top official defied orders to take a paid holiday and reinstate sacked staff members.

Jim Barrington, the executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports, arrived for work as usual, insisting he was still in charge, but he later left the

office and could not be contacted. Mr Barrington has been criticised because of remarks he made to *The Field* magazine describing fox-hunting as a sport with "culture and tradition" in which "many pillars of society" were involved.

In the most controversial part of the interview, he said he would not like to see "tens of thousands of respectable fox-hunting people classified as a disaffected class" as a result of a ban on

the sport. Mr Barrington had also caused anger within the league by dismissing its press officer, Kevin Saunders, and an administrative assistant, Michelle Bryan.

Last Saturday the league's executive committee, by a narrow majority, instructed Mr Barrington to reinstate the two staff members, to take a two-month sabbatical and to sign a statement of support for the abolition of all hunting with dogs. He has not

complied with any of these requests. John Bryant, the league's head of press relations and research, said: "It is a quite farcical situation. I have absolutely no idea what is going on." Tony Wilson, the head of finance, said: "There is an internal battle which is very difficult for everyone."

Last night some members of the executive committee were reported to be taking legal advice on ways of enforcing their decision.

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Terrace that rocked to teenagers making music joins the stately homes of England

Three's a crowd at Beatles shrine bought for nation

By DALYA ALBERGE AND KATE ALDERSON

A TERRACED house where Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison first played together was bought yesterday by the National Trust.

The three-up, three-down former council house at 20 Forthlin Road in Allerton, Liverpool, was where McCartney had his friends around to practice and write songs such as the Beatles' first single, *Love Me Do*. Built in 1952, it is the first post-war house to be bought by the trust, and the first associated with a pop star.

The five-figure purchase redefines the heritage organisation's view of an "historic" property. Angus Stirling, the Director-General, said the timing, in the midst of new Beatlemania, was an unplanned "piece of serendipity".

Martin Drury, Director-General designate, said the trust had not decided whether the house would be opened to the public. It was so small that 15 visitors would be "quite a scrum". Coachloads of fans go past every day. Sometimes they have been allowed in by Sheila Jones, who moved there when the McCartney family moved out. Mrs Jones, now 66, is leaving to live with her

daughter because of concern about security.

McCartney said: "My mum would have been dead chuffed to think our little council house would end up with the National Trust. It's a fantastic honour."

"This house was the scene of many formative Beatles years, such as leaving for Hamburg, rehearsing our act and writing songs. Sometimes we made a bit of a row. I pity the neighbours — I wouldn't have wanted to live next door."

McCartney moved there when he was aged 13 with his parents and brother Mike from a tough estate in Speke. His father Jim was a cotton-seller on £10-a-week in 1960; his mother Mary, a midwife. She died of cancer shortly after they moved in. It was the absence of a mother telling the boys to keep the noise down that allowed the Beatles — or the Quarrymen and the Silver Beatles as they were known first — to play as much as they did.

The McCartney family left under cover of darkness at the height of Beatlemania in 1964. The Beatles bought his father a house at Heswall in Wirral. Since then, Mrs Jones says that most visiting fans were

happy to take pictures of themselves outside the house. Others wanted to get closer.

"Every day of my life there have been fans knocking at the door, anxious to see something which would bring them closer to the Beatles," she said. "They came from all over the world and I gave them cups of tea and showed them Paul's bedroom at the front of the house."

One day she found four fans squeezed into the tiny upstairs lavatory. "They wanted to be photographed on Paul's loo. I have been offered a lot of money for the drainpipe which Paul and his brother climbed up to the toilet when they were locked out, but I turned them down."

Offers from the United States and Japan have been made for the house, but Mrs Jones opted to strike a deal with the National Trust for an undisclosed sum of less than £100,000. Trust managers will decide on its future after consultation with neighbours, Liverpool City Council — which still owns some houses in the street — and the McCartney family.

Bill Partington, 72, one of the few residents who lived in the street at the same time as



McCartney's brother Mike at his old home yesterday with Mrs Jones. She once found four fans in the lavatory

the McCartneys, recalled: "I used to hear them practise and watched George and John come and go with guitars."

His doorstep looks into the McCartneys' old living room. "One night in 1964 Paul's father asked me over for a drink and told me they were leaving at midnight. We were sad to see them go but the fans had got too much for them." He remembers McCartney visiting the house with his wife Linda about 20 years ago, but had not seen him since.

General of the BBC and a Liverpoolian, told the trust that Mrs Jones had put the house on the market in April after he visited the city.

Mike McCartney, Paul's younger brother — who used the name Mike McGear as a member of the group Scaffold — visited the house yesterday to express approval for the deal. He said: "I thought the National Trust were fuddy-duddies but when they learnt the house was up for sale they seized the opportunity to keep it in trust for the nation."



The house: no decision yet on opening it to public

Reunion single strikes an uncertain note

By DALYA ALBERGE AND LEVIA LINTON

TWENTY-FIVE years after the Fab Four split up, a new Beatles song was released yesterday. But musical opinion was divided on whether *Free As A Bird* would be a Christmas No 1 single, as so many had confidently predicted before hearing it.

The record was aired for the first time by Radio 1 minutes after the track was delivered to radio stations at 4am from the vaults of the Abbey Road studios in northwest London. Record stores around the country opened at midnight last night to be among the first to sell the double CD, *Anthology*, which includes material from unreleased studio sessions, live re-

cordings, the Beatles' own private tapes and the new song, which will come out as a single on December 4. Two more double CDs are planned.

Lennon, who was shot dead in New York in 1980, made a demo tape of *Free As A Bird* in 1977. It remained unfinished until his widow, Yoko Ono, allowed the three remaining Beatles — Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr — to complete it.

Their former producer, George Martin, predicted it would be a hit, and expressed disappointment that Jeff Lynne had been asked to take charge this time. His verdict was: "I do not think it is as good as *Strawberry Fields*, but it is better than many others. It is not the greatest they

have ever done, but it is certainly a very good record indeed. Be grateful for small mercies. We do not often get this happening."

Mr Martin said that it was impossible to know whether Lennon would have approved: "John changed his mind more often than he changed his socks. If you had him in the right mood he would have said, 'Great, fantastic.' On the other hand he could have just said 'sluggish'."

"The very fact that Yoko gave the track to Paul with her blessing is an indication that she thought John would have loved it."

However, there was a lukewarm response from others. Paul Du Noyer, Contributing Editor of *Mojo* magazine, told Radio 1: "It's a bit of a dirge

for the first half, but I think there's a tune in there that will get under the skin. Like a lot of Beatles fans, I've been quite worried about the new record, but on hearing the single for the first time I think they might just get away with it."

Mark Goodier, a Radio 1 DJ, said: "I reckon it's a bit of a grower. It's not a classic though, just a good quality pop song."

A rare Beatles tape is expected to fetch up to £10,000 at Bonhams in London next month. The 14-minute rehearsal version of *I Want You, She's So Heavy*, was recorded at the group's Apple offices in London in 1969.

Beatles verdict, page 17
Leading article, page 19



The cover of *Anthology*, the first of three volumes

Allotment burglar jailed for new raid

A BURGLAR awarded £4,000 damages after being shot by a pensioner defending his allotment yesterday for a further case of attempted burglary, this time at the home of a 78-year-old. Judge Keith Matthewsman, QC, told Mark Revill, 29, of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, who is unemployed, that what happened on the first occasion was his own fault and added: "Obviously you haven't learnt your lesson."

Nottingham Crown Court was told Revill, who pleaded guilty, smashed a window and tried to get into a house in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, in June last year. The pensioner did not wake up and Revill did not get into the house.

Last month, three Appeal Court judges turned down an appeal against the damages awarded by Judge Matthewsman. He had fired a 12-bore shotgun through a hole in his allotment shed after Revill and another man tried to burgle it in 1993.

Judge Matthewsman added that, if Revill had been under stress since he was shot by Mr Newbery, the last thing he would have been expected to do was to attempt another burglary.

Mr Newbery said he was sorry to hear of the jail term and especially felt for Revill's young children. But he added: "He has no one to blame but himself. It seems that he will not alter."

Norris suggests 10mph limit where young play

By CATHERINE MILTON, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE speed limit for roads where children play could be cut to 10mph, the Transport Minister said yesterday.

Steven Norris told delegates at the Play in the Streets conference organised by the National Children's Bureau: "If 20mph can be made to work I would not be averse to looking and seeing whether lower speeds still will work."

The minister was responding to calls from the AA to cut the 160,000 annual injuries from road accidents by experimenting with a 10mph limit on some streets where pedestrians and motorists share the road.

Mr Norris said that because of the number of child pedestrians dying, a generation of children was being driven to school without learning road



Norris fears children are losing road skills

skills. In a question-and-answer session he said it was an "utter obscenity" that on average more than one child a day was killed in a road accident.

"When a child loses his life because of a deranged human being, it occupies the tabloids for a week while another seven kids get killed on the roads," he added. "It may be that more children now go to school by car. Ironically, we may be creating a generation of children who are not actually streetwise about traffic and who therefore lack the skills they will need for later life."

Rob Whewey, a children's play consultant, said that children's movements within communities had been severely reduced. Research had shown that the range over which children were allowed by their parents to wander had been cut by two thirds since 1970. That meant that the area available in all directions had been cut by eight ninths.

"There is no evidence of an increase in stranger-danger. But there is a dramatic decrease in social interaction within the community because of the car."

Mr Norris raised the prospect of electronic measures being installed on roads to enforce new speed limits. "One day, perhaps, that will be with us," he said.

Leading article, page 19

Lorryloads of water postpone rota cuts

By TIM JONES

RECENT rain and a huge operation to move by road millions of gallons of water to West Yorkshire have delayed rota cuts until the new year. Reservoir levels are slowly rising, bringing the hope that emergency measures may be postponed indefinitely.

Yorkshire Water said: "Every inch of rain puts the cuts back another week. We can never say cuts are not going to happen at all. If it is dry between now and Christmas, they would have to be introduced."

As executives prayed for an exceptionally wet winter, 200 tankers began a £1 million-a-week operation to transfer six million gallons of water from the North East of England to the depleted reservoirs.

The scheme has involved laying a road over a field next to the A66 west of Stockton on Tees and building a 300-yard long, 22ft-high scaffolding gantry from Long Newton reservoir, which will carry a pipe capable of filling eight tankers in six minutes. The tankers will deliver their cargo to Eucop reservoir, six miles north of Leeds, before returning by a different route to complete the 120-mile round trip 24 hours a day.

Northumbrian Water says it has abundant supplies and is delighted to help.

Letters, page 19



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Students' pledge wins May ball reprieve

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS at a Cambridge college are planning their "biggest ever" May ball after winning a reprieve from restrictions that threatened to end the traditional celebrations. City councillors relented on plans to impose a curfew on amplified music after the 20 colleges staging balls next year promised to introduce measures to keep down the noise. Organisers said an early finish — 12.30am — would make many of the balls unviable.

The reprieve was especially welcome at Jesus, which received two-thirds of the 80

complaints about excessive noise made this year, and which next year is planning "the biggest Oxbridge ball ever" to celebrate the college's 500th anniversary.

Oliver Harrison, president of the ball committee, said: "The council's original proposals would have prevented most of the May balls from happening. People realise they are going to have to work harder to make sure they don't disturb the neighbours." His committee was researching technical measures, such as insulated marquees, to keep down the noise, although this would increase the cost. Party-goers are undeterred: half the

2,000 tickets, which cost £85 for college students and £112.50 for everyone else, have already been sold.

Every college will be monitored next summer and individual licences revoked if noise levels are unacceptable. Main bands are recommended to end at 12.30am and fireworks, which should be "for visual display purposes only with minimal noise effect" — in other words, no bangs — at 11pm.

Selwyn Anderson, assistant head of environmental health at the city council, said: "Our intention was never to stop the May balls. It was just to ensure people in the locality could get some sleep."

Bugs attack miles of copper piping at Guy's

Corrosion blights £150m hospital development

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A CORROSIVE condition that attacks copper piping is threatening to cause costly delays to Britain's largest and most sophisticated outpatient and day-surgery centre at Guy's Hospital in London.

The problem is caused by a concentration of bugs, which multiply in stagnant water in the pipes and eat away the copper. Miles of them have already been corroded at Guy's. The centre, intended to break new medical ground by bridging the divide between GP and hospital care, is now unlikely to open before 1997, three years behind schedule, and at a projected cost of £152 million, more than five times the original estimate of £29 million made in 1985.

Described by officials as the "most superb piece of real estate in the NHS" it is condemned by outside experts as the most disastrous building project the NHS has seen. Repeated delays and other problems have resulted in the

Guy's & St Thomas's NHS Trust running up bills of £500,000 in legal fees in the past year alone, according to the *Health Service Journal*. Both the National Audit Office and the Commons Public Accounts Committee are to start investigations.

It is a nightmare outcome for what was once known as Philip Harris House, named after the carpet magnate who lent his name to the building but withdrew his support and a £6 million donation in a dispute over its changed use.

It is now prosaically referred to as the "Phase III development", symptomatic of the way that the Guy's dream has turned sour. Less than four years ago the Guy's Hospital trust was pioneering the market-led NHS reforms but, since merging last year with St Thomas's, its more powerful sister, it has become the poor relation.

Robert Maxwell, chief executive of the King's Fund, the

independent health think-tank, says the way in which the two hospitals have been brought together, while necessary, was poorly handled.

"There is no single villain of the piece. It was a mix of politics and management. In merging two hospitals such as these you want to try to preserve their past traditions, make them feel equal partners and that the process is being done in an even-handed way."

"It did not feel like that to people at Guy's. It felt like the St Thomas's handwagon was going to obliterate them," he said.

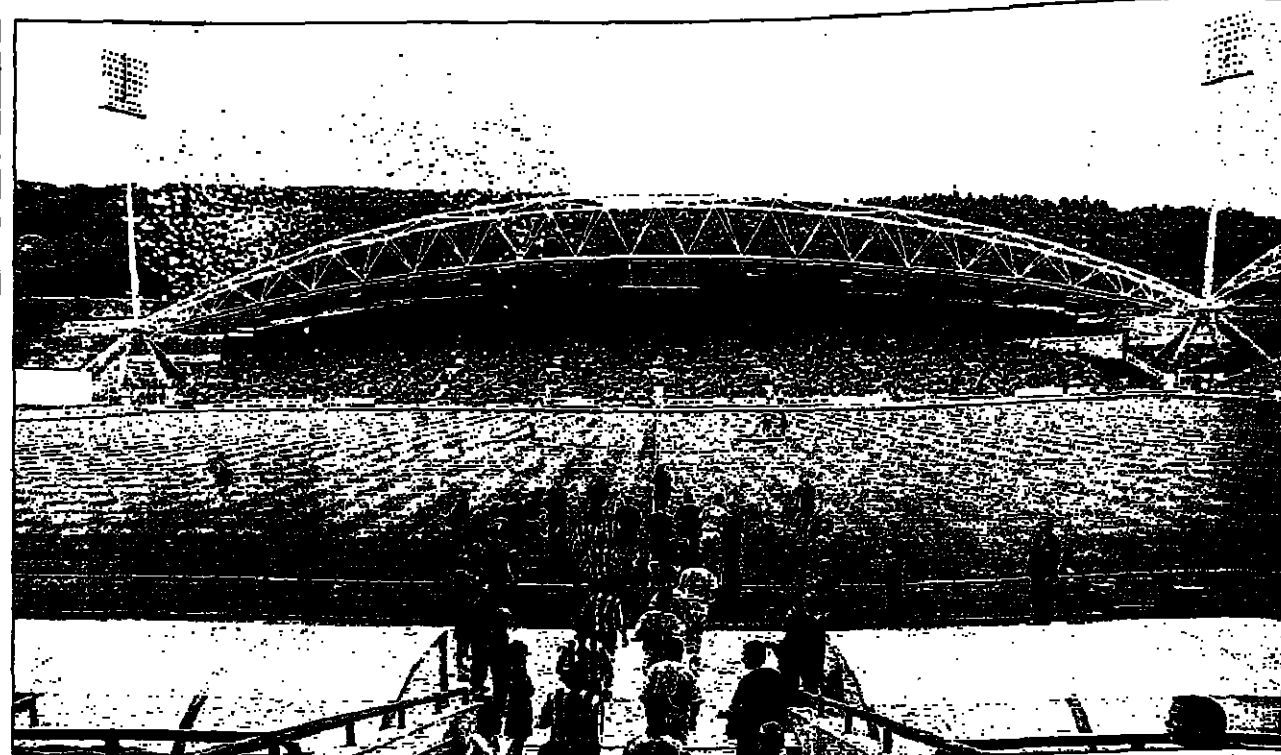
Mr Maxwell said confusion over whether the merged trust would relocate on one or two sites and the "fearsome" capital costs added to the problems.

"It still looks a bit messy with acute care at St Thomas's and outpatients and research at Guy's. The alternative would be to make Guy's primarily a site for elective

surgery. I am not absolutely convinced the current proposals have been worked out from that base rather than for reasons of expediency."

Campaigners trying to save Guy's as an acute hospital in its own right played their final card last month when an application for leave to bring a judicial review was turned down by the High Court. The Save Guy's campaign had hoped to reverse the Health Secretary's decision last April to merge the hospitals but the judge ruled their application was too late.

The merged trust, Britain's biggest, is seeking more than £100 million to fund the cost of rebuilding and reorganising services on the two sites. It placed its first advertisement for investors in the *European Journal* this month. Under the Government's Private Finance Initiative, NHS trusts must try to raise capital from the private sector before approaching the Treasury.



The new stadium, home to the town's football and rugby league clubs, being inaugurated in August last year

By MARCUS BUNNEY

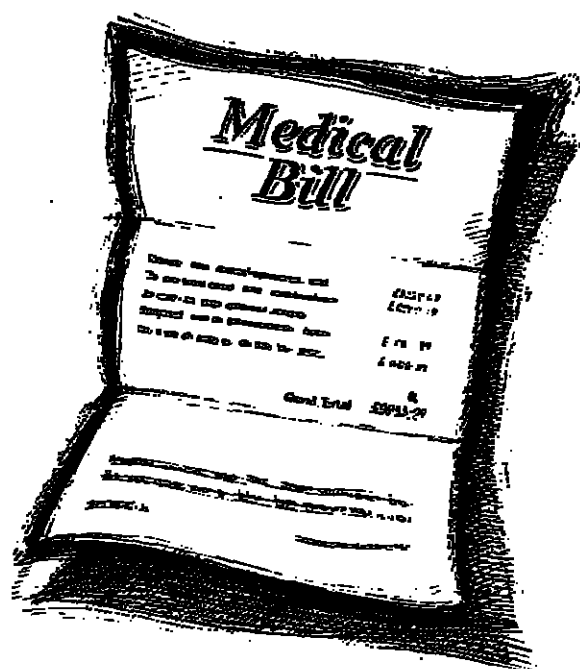
HUDDERSFIELD'S new Kirkstall stadium has won the 1995 Royal Institute of British Architects Building of the Year Award. The architects of the Lobb Partnership snatched the prize from a shortlist that included Sir Richard Rogers's Channel 4 headquarters in London, the RAC centre in Bristol by Nicholas Grimshaw and Blackburn House Centre for

Sports stadium wins RIBA building award

Women in Liverpool, by the architects Pickles Martinez. Owen Luder, the RIBA president, who chose the winner, said: "A decade ago it would not have been possible to find a football ground worth a second glance." The £15 million Alfred McAlpine Stadi-

um, home to Huddersfield Town Football Club and Huddersfield Rugby League Club, is inspired by venues commissioned for the World Cup in Italy. Huddersfield's stadium is a direct response to the Taylor report, which demanded new safety provi-

sions including fixed seating in the aftermath of the Bradford fire. The awards jury said Kirkstall showed "how bold use of a simple structure can create great architecture. The forceful silhouette of the arched stands rises above the town." The award is a remarkable double for its structural engineer, Anthony Hunt, the engineering brains behind last year's RIBA winner, the Waterloo International Terminal.



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Paedophiles use Internet code to preserve secrecy

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL paedophile rings are using new encoding techniques to make secret contact on the Internet, an Interpol conference was told yesterday.

Borrowing an encryption system known as PGP — Pretty Good Privacy — developed in America, paedophiles and child pornographers can contact each other without anyone else reading their material. Experts estimate that it could take ten years for computer systems to crack the individual codes.

At the start of the two-day conference in London on crime against children, Detective Chief Inspector Bryan Drew of the National Criminal Intelligence Service said police had found use of the encryption system had been growing in the past two years.

Mr Drew said: "Some people are sending porn down the Internet together with the instructions as to how to use encryption to safeguard yourself. You need to know the key to unscramble it. Paedophiles often network across Europe and beyond to exchange information and experiences with like-minded individuals."

He said details of the PGP technique were available on

the Internet to any user who adapted it to their own use with a personal code. Police were also concerned at the use of a "renailing" service being provided by an Internet expert in Finland who takes material sent to him and removes identification marks before sending it out again.

Mr Drew said that although police increasingly realised the difficulties posed by the Internet, which has more than 40 million users worldwide, as yet no one in Britain had decided on a policy for dealing with them.

During the conference, Mr Drew said, he would be holding talks with delegates from Thailand, the Philippines and Sri Lanka about tourist paedophiles. British intelligence files on paedophiles currently listed 3,000 names, although Westerners accounted for only 10 per cent of the people who used children for sex in the underdeveloped countries. He believed police were getting closer to discovering the full extent of the problem in this country.

As part of Interpol's operations, a network of 64 liaison officers had been set up round the world to keep in touch on investigations.



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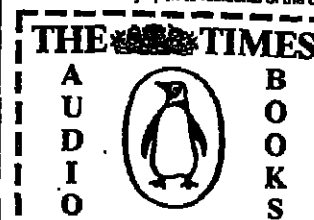
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10p tax rate is expected to curb welfare dependency

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN committed Labour to an income tax starting rate of 10p in the pound yesterday amid renewed political infighting over reform of the £85 billion social security budget.

The Shadow Chancellor presented his startling proposal as a main ingredient in efforts to cut welfare costs and persuade claimants to take low-paid jobs.

At the same time, leading Tories signalled their interest in welfare reform by giving their blessing to a new Tory-inclined think-tank dedicated to curbing the State's role in tackling social problems.

Dr Sheila Lawlor, the director of Politeia, said that although ministers were making a brave effort to curb social security spending the ageing of the population meant that present levels could not be sustained. The fundamental basis of the welfare budget had to be rethought with the aim of enabling the middle classes to make their own arrangements for their old age and other setbacks, such as sickness and

redundancy, without penalising enterprise. Mr Brown, in a speech clearly designed to banish Labour's image as the party of high tax and high spending, linked his proposals to efforts to tackle unemployment and curb welfare dependency. The plan would cost about £6 billion if implemented overnight for the first £3,200 of taxable income, which is at present taxed at 20p in the pound. But Labour would phase in any changes.

Mr Brown told a pre-Budget luncheon in aid of the British Dyslexia Foundation: "The tax system now needs to be reformed to encourage work and opportunity in the new labour market. In combination with increased employment opportunity, a minimum wage and benefit reform, structural reform of the tax system is necessary to help the one in five workless households currently denied work to get it."

Britain was unusual in having a 20p starting rate of income tax. Of the other 14 European Union countries, 10 had an initial rate below 20p.

The same applied to Japan and the United States.

"To encourage opportunity, we also need a lower starting rate of tax... Our long-term objective is a new lower starting rate of 15p or preferably 10p. This measure is fair - it would be good for all middle and lower-income families..."

Our proposal would also promote opportunity and hard work by slashing the marginal rate of income tax for people on low earnings."

He went on: "Combined with adjustments to benefit tapers, measures to provide greater job opportunities and a minimum wage, our tax proposal would substantially increase incentives for people to move off benefits and into work."

Ministers scorned Mr Brown's remarks as absurd. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said that he would be "promising a cure for baldness next".

The former Tory party chairman Lord Parkinson is the treasurer of Politeia and Viscount Cranborne, the Leader of the Lords and an ally of

John Major's, is its patron. The think-tank intends to publish radical proposals over the next few months on freeing the labour market, boosting education standards and improving care of the elderly. Downing Street policymakers are taking a close interest in its "kite-flying" activities.

In a pamphlet coinciding with the launch, Dr Lawlor, a former deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies, says that an expansion of the State's powers, as favoured by Labour with its new talk of community, is the disease rather than the cure. She calls for a return to liberal Conservatism and the Beveridge principle of building individual security through insurance not taxation.

Mr Brown said that Tory economic failure meant that the State was taking 37 per cent of national wealth in taxes this year compared with 34.8 per cent in 1979. Labour wanted a tax system that was open and honest, encouraged effort, encouraged long-term savings, and treated the rich and poor fairly.



Gordon Brown, who outlined his 10p tax plan yesterday. Some colleagues think his influence on policy is too great

Brown and Cook in row over key committee job

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has intervened in a new dispute between Gordon Brown and Robin Cook as tension grows between the two senior Shadow Cabinet members.

Mr Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, is said to be irritated by moves, backed by the Shadow Chancellor, to appoint Martin O'Neill as the new chairman of the Trade and Industry Select Committee. Mr O'Neill, a close colleague of Mr Brown, lost his frontbench role as energy spokesman in Mr Blair's reshuffle last month.

The chairmanship is considered an important position for a Labour backbencher and MPs expected the vacancy to be filled by one of two committee members, Ken Purchase or Michael Clapham.

Mr Blair, however, is said to favour the appointment of Mr O'Neill, and his support will add to backbench unease over the leader's personal involvement in party affairs. Generally, nominations for select committee chairmanships are put forward by party business

managers and frontbenchers have voiced anger at Mr Blair's intervention. "Martin O'Neill is being paid compensation for losing his job. That is not what a select committee chairmanship is for and it's not for the leader to hand it out as a consolation prize," one frontbencher said.

Mr Cook has been supported in his opposition by other Shadow Cabinet members, including Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary. The argument between Mr Cook and Mr Brown exacerbates the friction between the two. Mr Cook led criticism of Mr Brown last week over his decision not to consult colleagues before announcing, through a newspaper interview, Labour plans to force young unemployed people into work training schemes.

Senior Labour figures describe relations between the two as "dreadful" and several Shadow Cabinet members have complained privately that Mr Brown is exerting too much influence over policy.

Labour must put public spending plans on show

The true test of the seriousness of any politician is not their tax proposals, but what they say about public spending. On that measure, Gordon Brown has only offered half a plan. He has outlined a series of initiatives to get the young and long-term unemployed back into work (financed by a one-off levy on the privatised utilities) and to boost investment. The latest, and most eye-catching, idea is that a Labour government should have the long-term aim of a starting rate of income tax of 15p, or preferably 10p, "when affordable".

The timing of the proposal is, of course, to prevent Labour being out-manoeuvred by the Tories over the tax cuts expected to be announced by Kenneth Clarke a week today. In his campaign to dispel Labour's image as a high-tax party, Mr Brown seeks to contrast his proposals to benefit lower and middle-income families with Tory aspirations eventually to abolish capital gains tax and inheritance tax. His attempt to position Labour as a party of lower taxes is shrewd tactics, however much economists may argue whether this is best achieved by having a lower starting rate or by raising thresholds.

The risk, however, is that promising tax cuts in this way is unconvincing unless Labour also presents spending options. The response of the Brown camp is that a 10p starting rate is a long-term aspiration, achievable only as and when resources permit. But by revealing this goal now, Labour has raised expectations. It is not good enough to argue that, if Labour succeeds in reducing long-term unemployment, money will be made available from savings on the social security budget. It is like assuming that tax cuts automatically generate higher tax receipts. That may happen, but it is wrong to include the extra resources in forecasts before they materialise.

The inherent problem is that the public still does not believe that Labour in government would, as Mr Brown claims, be "the party of wise spenders not big spenders". However strict Mr Brown and Andrew Smith, the Shadow Chief Secretary, are in

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

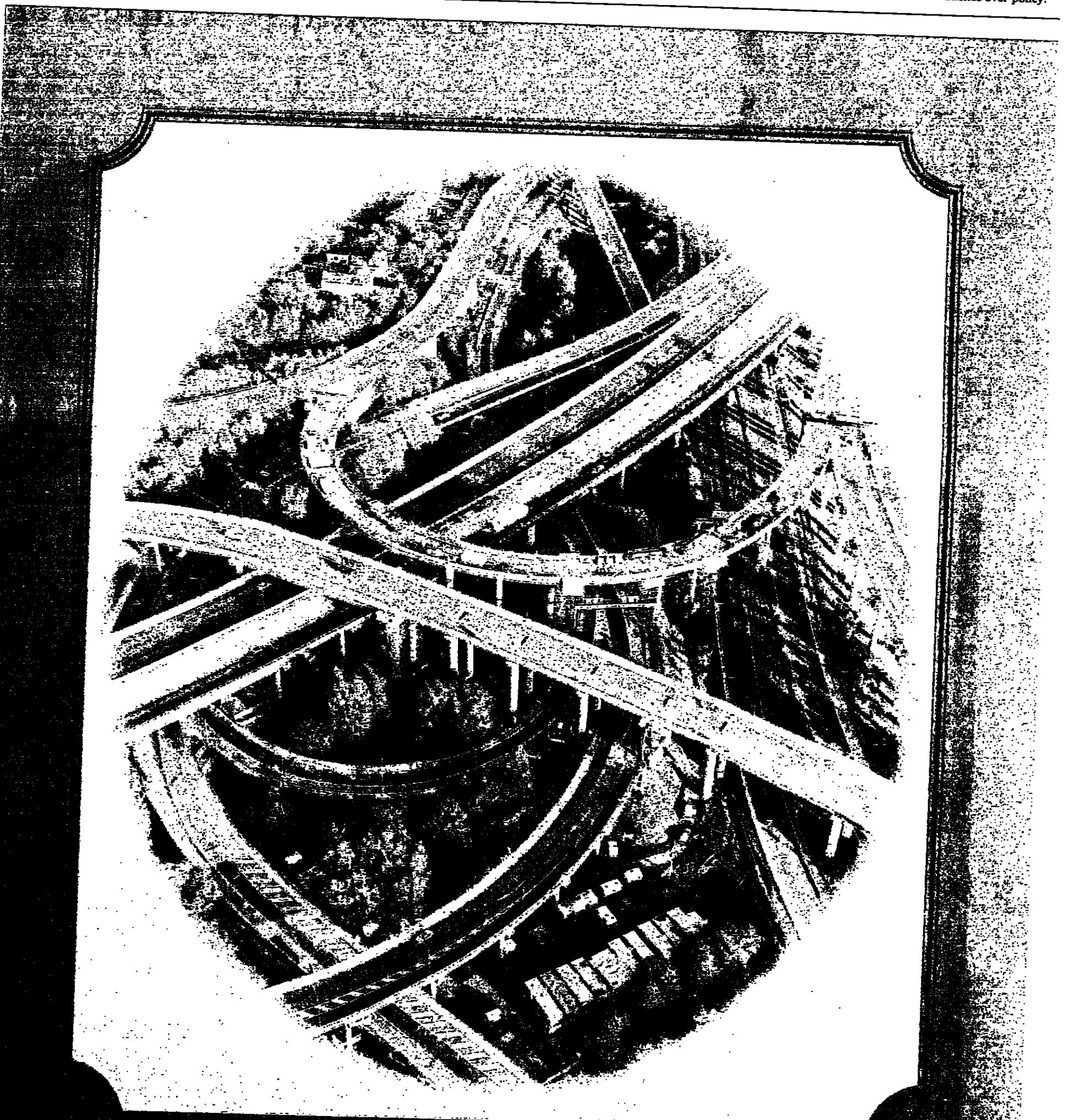
restraining spending commitments, the instincts of many spokesmen are still at least to hint at extra expenditure as the solution to problems. Labour needs to identify real cuts in spending programmes, not notional savings that might result from faster growth and lower unemployment.

Labour has so far only skirted round the underlying problem of reconciling the strong upward pressures on public expenditure with holding down the overall tax burden. Even after repeated squeezes, the present Government has never reduced spending, even as a share of national income, for more than a few years when the economy is growing strongly.

The implications of this strategic failure have been brought out by Professor Nick Bosanquet in a new Social Market Foundation paper, *Public Spending into the Millennium*. He argues that the supply-side measures of the 1980s and 1990s, such as the Citizen's Charter, internal health markets, and the expansion of higher education, have increased demand for improved services. The growing use of commercial capital has created a new breed of businesses with a vested interest in higher public spending. Consequently, much more fundamental changes are required to prevent spending rising towards 45 per cent of national income in a future recession, with resulting increases in taxes for lower-income groups and small businesses.

Professor Bosanquet is no advocate of a minimalist State, but he does believe the rising demand for public services can only be met by making individuals more directly responsible through the use of vouchers, income testing for social benefits, more private insurance, and partnership with the private sector. Many of these ideas are still anathema to Labour, but they have to be addressed if Labour is to have a credible long-term economic strategy.

PETER RIDDELL



THE BRIDLE PATH FROM WALMLEY TO LADYWOOD

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to national heritage ministers and the Lord Chancellor's Department; statement on Immigration by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary; Queen's Speech debate on investment, trade, industry and transport. In the Lords: Queen's Speech debate on law and home and social affairs.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to environment ministers; Queen's Speech debate on social affairs, education and home affairs. In the Lords: Queen's Speech debate on environment, agriculture, local government and education.

MP upset by political TV drama

THE Labour MP Tony Banks complained yesterday about the image of the Commons portrayed in the television drama *The Final Cut*.

Mr Banks told Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker: "This programme is giving rise to a great deal of offence throughout the Commons, not because Prime Minister Urquhart is being portrayed as a killer... but our procedures are being misrepresented, and at the end of the programme we see Tory MP Michael Fabricant is the parliamentary adviser."

He asked Miss Boothroyd to explain the procedures to Mr Fabricant "so he can get it right". Mr Fabricant said that the BBC was not obliged to follow his advice.

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MANY THINGS HAVE GONE FOR A BURTON THESE DAYS - BUT THANKFULLY NOT IN BURTON. MARSTON'S PEDIGREE REMAINS THE GOLDEN PINT IT WAS IN GOOD OLD JOHN MARSTON'S DAY, BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY BEER STILL BREWED IN WOODEN CASKS. THANK HEAVENS SOME THINGS ARE WHAT THEY USED TO BE.



EU agrees Nigeria arms embargo but rejects ban on oil

By CHARLES BREMNER AND INIGO GILMORE

THE European Union last night agreed to enforce an arms embargo and other sanctions against Nigeria to punish it for abusing human rights. But ministers rejected a call from the European Parliament to halt oil imports.

Under the sanctions, the 15 member states will ban the sale of arms, ammunition and military equipment, including spare parts.

The EU, which withdrew its ambassadors from Nigeria on Saturday, will also extend a ban on visas for the country's military and their families to the civilian members of the Government. Some £200 million of EU development aid will also be suspended.

The European Parliament last week unanimously passed a strongly worded resolution condemning the regime of General Sani Abacha for the "brutal executions" of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, and eight fellow Ogoni activists.

Agreeing on the sanctions, foreign ministers said they were considering further steps should the military leadership persist with its present course. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, was one of those pressing for a block on oil imports, a step urged by the European Parliament, and the freezing of assets of prominent Nigerians. However, ministers supported the British and

French argument that, for now, an embargo at only a European level would be impractical. British officials said London wanted to get maximum pressure from the sanctions while considering an oil embargo and other measures for possible later use. Freezing assets was "one of those things we should keep under review", an official said, denying South African reports that Britain had already decided to act.

In Johannesburg, President Mandela of South Africa took senior Shell executives to task yesterday. Carl Niehaus, an African National Congress MP, said Mr Mandela told John Drake, Shell's South Africa chairman, that the company's current response to criticism after the executions

was "deeply disappointing". He said: "The President raised strongly the need for Shell to show its outrage. Shell should make use of its considerable economic power in Nigeria to put pressure on the dictators."

President Mandela is spearheading a campaign for economic sanctions against Nigeria after the executions prompted him to discard his much-criticised policy of quiet diplomacy with the Nigerian junta. He has been emboldened by a "positive" response from President Clinton over an oil embargo.

Mr Mandela said yesterday that Mr Clinton had agreed to urge the United Nations to take a stand on Nigeria. The South African leader added that he would be holding further talks with America and China, and would be stepping up pressure on Britain.

□ **Wife's appeal:** Winnie Mandela prevented her household goods from being seized yesterday when she lodged an eleven-hour appeal against a court ruling that has left her facing debts of 100,000 rands (£20,000).

Last week she was found responsible for unpaid bills from Foster Webb Air Charter for the hire of a Lear jet, which had been used for a failed diamond-buying operation in Angola.



Mandela: prepared to put more pressure on Britain



Sri Lankan government soldiers take a rest during a lull in fighting against Tamil Tigers on the outskirts of Jaffna, which has been mined by the separatist rebels but is expected to fall within a few days

Sri Lankan troops bear down on booby-trapped capital of Tamils

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time in five years, Sri Lankan troops entered the precincts of Jaffna city yesterday in a victory that will transform the political and security landscape. The myth of the Tamil Tigers' invincibility has been broken, spreading panic among the vulnerable Tamil minority.

The Tigers have booby-trapped practically every house and mined every street. The fall of the centre of Tamil culture will take several days more. The army admitted to 100 killed or wounded on Sunday alone, almost certainly an understatement. The Tigers' losses are also high.

A military communiqué said troops were advancing on the city centre. A new division, the 53rd, which includes commandos and an air

mobile brigade, will lead the final advance.

Hundreds of thousands of people, fearing a repeat of the 1983 anti-Tamil atrocities, have left their homes and international aid agencies are banned from direct intervention to help them. Journalists have not been allowed to visit the Jaffna peninsula, which means the scale of what must be a humanitarian disaster is unknown. Rebel gunmen have escaped by joining the hundreds of refugees travelling in small boats to the mainland.

The fall of Jaffna will be followed by a campaign to reassure Tamils, who comprise 12 per cent of the population, that they are safe from the army. Many, however, will view the outcome as a

victory of the Sinhalese over them. Sinhalese extremists will certainly be emboldened to fight proposals for devolution of power. The Government will seek to assist



Kumaratunga: has put conditions on new talks

Tamil regional government in Jaffna as soon as possible. All nine Tamil parties in Sri Lanka, two of which are partners in the Government, support the devolution plan.

President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga has imposed three conditions before talking again to the Tigers, who unilaterally ended a ceasefire seven months ago: a cessation of hostilities, a laying-down of arms, and negotiations within a precise time frame.

The Tigers ordered civilians out of Jaffna to stop them coming under government jurisdiction. Many refugees will end up in the Eastern Province, which has been practically abandoned by the army to concentrate on the north. The rebels will probably regroup there.

Truce on budget ends US shutdown

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEARLY 300,000 federal employees returned to work yesterday after America's longest government shutdown, but the six-day closure was merely an opening battle in the ideological war between a Democratic President and a Republican Congress over the nation's direction.

On Sunday, the two sides agreed a form of words so they could end the increasingly unpopular shutdown without losing face. It was a fudge that bought time but papered over fundamental differences. Real negotiations start next Monday and there could be another shutdown if no budget plan is agreed by December 15.

The Republicans want to cut more than \$1,000 billion (£645 billion) from projected government spending by 2002 to balance the nation's books and to cut taxes by \$245 billion. Congress was preparing to send that plan to the White House last night.

President Clinton was set to veto it because its proposed cuts would "eviscerate" vital social programmes. His plan envisages a balanced budget in ten years through far less draconian cuts, and with \$111 billion in tax breaks for the less well-off.

Sunday's agreement provides only the loosest framework for negotiations. Mr Clinton agreed to the principal of achieving a balanced budget in seven years — provided social programmes were "protected" and had "adequate funding".

He agreed to accept the more pessimistic economic assumptions of the Congressional Budget Office, but only after it had reviewed them with his own Office of Management and Budget.

Mr Clinton has emerged with the upper hand. *USA Today* and *The Wall Street Journal* polls yesterday showed Americans blamed Republicans for the shutdown by two to one.

Rabin killer 'trained by Shin Bet'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE self-confessed assassin of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, appeared in court yesterday shortly after the country's biggest-selling newspaper claimed he had been trained as a guard by the Shin Bet security service.

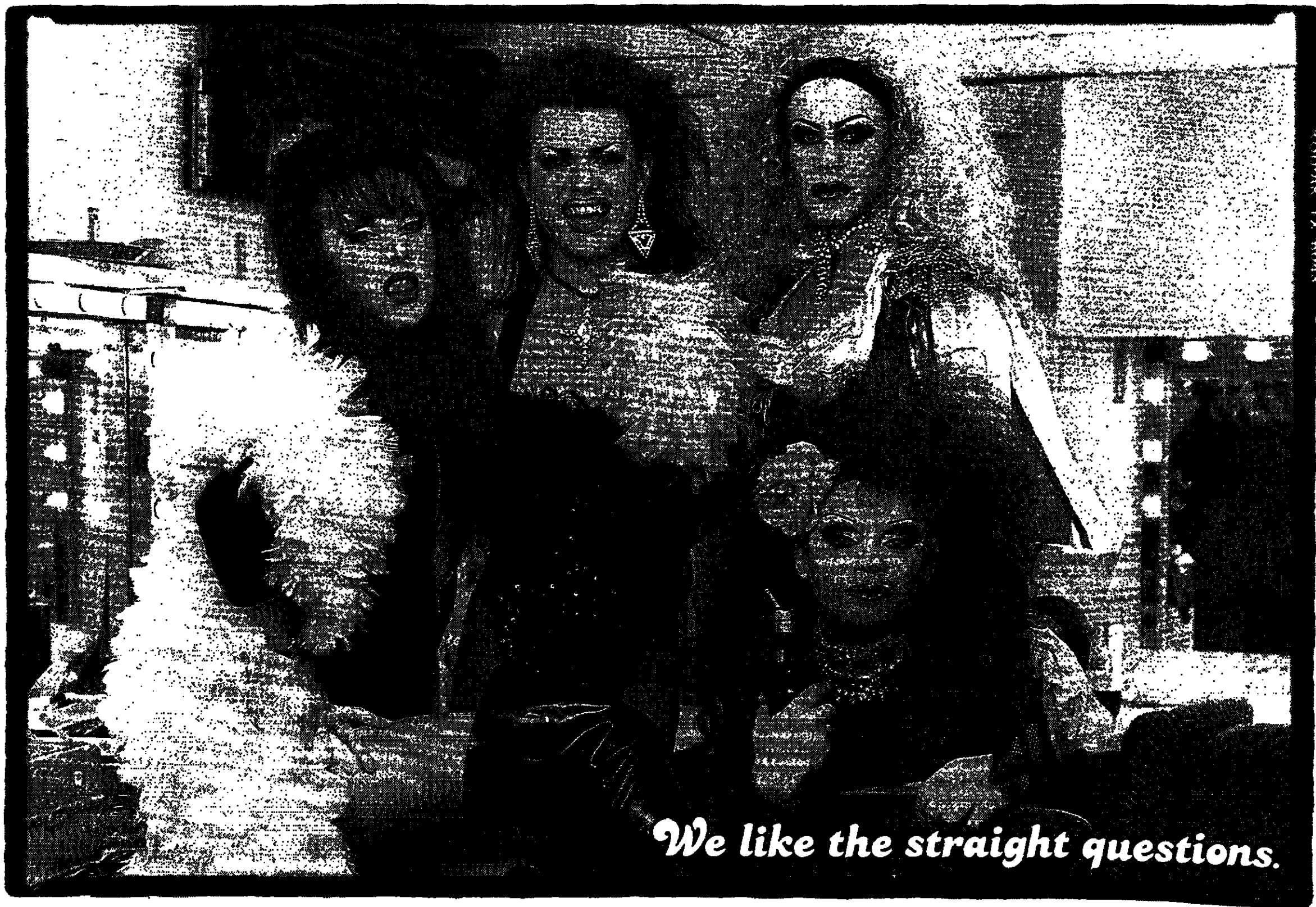
Yediot Ahronot, a paper noted for its close contacts with the security service, said

that Yigal Amir, 25, was trained as a Shin Bet guard in 1992 and sent to Riga, the Latvian capital, to protect the Jewish community there.

The allegations, citing unnamed security sources, followed a government blackout on information about connections between Shin Bet and the Jewish Right after disclosures that one of nine people so far detained in connection with the case had been a Shin

Bet agent. Mr Amir, who told the Tel Aviv court that Rabin had not been the legitimate leader of the Jewish people, was remanded in custody for a further 11 days.

Wearing a black skull cap, he said: "Perhaps physically I acted alone, but it was not only my finger on the trigger but the entire nation which for 2,000 years dreamed about this country and spilled its blood for it."



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Trivial Pursuit

it takes all sorts

صكنا من الامم

France denounces 'hypocrisy' over its nuclear testing

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

FRANCE ensured itself fresh ill-will among its European Union partners last night when it threw diplomatic caution to the winds and denounced a majority of them as hypocrites for opposing its nuclear testing.

The extraordinary diatribe from Hervé de Charette, the normally effeminate Foreign Minister, cast a pall over a session of EU Foreign Ministers and scotched predictions that Paris would seek to defuse anger over President Chirac's fit of nuclear pique at the weekend.

The French President threw a spanner into the Euro-works by cancelling a formal summit with Lamberto Dini of Italy and talks with the Belgian and Finnish leaders. Their sin had been to join seven other EU members in a UN vote deploring nuclear testing. Britain backed France in the UN vote and Germany abstained, along with Greece and Spain.

M de Charette railed at the EU states who had hailed the nuclear umbrella of France and Britain only last week at a European defence meeting in Madrid "and then several days, even hours, later appear through a UN declaration to question the very idea of nuclear dissuasion. It takes a lot of hypocrisy to say white one day and black the next".

France had the right to voice its "bitterness", he said at a press conference. "We are expressing our rejection of hypocrisy."

Ministers from the offending states responded in measured tones. Lena Hjelm-Wallen, the Swedish Foreign Minister, whose country has been at the forefront of criticism, said: "It is not a satisfying situation when France does not want to co-operate with other EU countries."

But officials from Italy and Belgium were seething over what they depicted as Presi-

dent Chirac's high-handed and precipitate behaviour. "There is a limit to how much we can swallow from this man," said a Belgian official.

British officials took a more sober line. A senior source said the smaller European states "would have to come to terms with the reality of geopolitical relations" which dictated the policies of France, Germany and Britain.

The continuing nuclear row, further inflamed by M Chirac's fits of temper, has served to highlight Britain's argument that the European Union cannot conduct its foreign and defence policy in unison.

The issue is paramount at the forthcoming conference to revamp the Maastricht treaty since a majority of EU states, including Germany, want to scrap the national veto in favour of majority voting.

Letters, page 19



Frank Sinatra thanks the audience at a Los Angeles celebrity concert to celebrate his eightieth birthday, which falls on December 12. Tony Bennett performed

Franco's legacy seen in Catalan election result

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

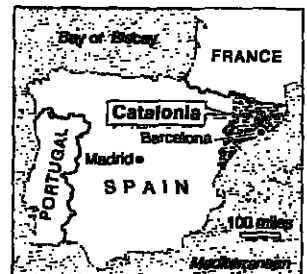
THE twentieth anniversary of the death of Francisco Franco, Spain's dictator for 36 years, coincided yesterday with the definitive results of Sunday's regional elections in Catalonia. The vote was a slap in a face for the ruling conservative nationalists, who lost their absolute majority. It might have brought an uncharacteristic flicker of a smile to the usually stony face of the Caudillo.

The anniversary has precipitated a welter of books and media comment on Franco's role in Spanish history, which could not be discussed openly during his rule, and the crucial roles of King Juan Carlos and Adolfo Suárez. The latter was the Prime Minister appointed by the King, Franco's chosen heir, to oversee the delicate transition to democracy.

A survey by *El País* shows nearly a third of Spaniards believe the Franco regime had good and bad points. This is significant when the centre-right Popular Party — accused by the ruling Socialists

of harbouring the descendants of Franco's old guard and certainly including elements of the Far Right — is likely to secure its first victory in a general election, called by Felipe González, the Prime Minister, for next March.

But the survey also shows that a growing number of



Spaniards think democracy is here to stay. Fifteen years ago, only 50 per cent believed it was the best system, but 70 per cent preferred it ten years ago and now 76 per cent are in favour. The popularity of the King is at an all-time high and he has an approval rating of 80 per cent.

Islamic militants convicted

Brussels: The appeal court here jailed Ahmed Zaoui, who Belgian authorities believe is number two in the fundamentalist Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA), for four years. But the court suspended the sentence, clearing the way for his extradition.

Zaoui and seven other North Africans were tried on charges including the possession of forged documents and illegal possession and transportation of arms and explosives. (Reuters)

Rebels ambush Grozny leader

Moscow: Suspected Chechen rebels ambushed a convoy carrying Dokus Zavgayev, the head of the Russian-backed government in Grozny, raising fears of a resumption of hostilities in the republic (Richard Beeston writes). Mr Zavgayev, who was slightly injured, is planning elections next month, a move opposed by the separatists.

Mulroney sues

Montreal: Brian Mulroney, a former Prime Minister, filed a \$24 million suit against the Canadian Government over claims that he received payments to influence a 1988 Airbus order. (Reuters)

Nazi extradited

Buenos Aires: Erich Priebke, 62, the former SS captain accused of overseeing the massacre of 335 civilians outside Rome in 1944, was extradited from Argentina and flown to Italy to face trial.

Officers executed

Monrovia: A firing squad of the Liberian Peace Council militia has executed seven commanders for atrocities against civilians in the southern River Cess county, militia officials said. (Reuters)

Thieves get away with Napoleonic treasure

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE sixteenth-century chateau at Fontainebleau, one of France's greatest palaces and former home to kings and emperors, has fallen to a gang of criminals with a crowbar.

Last week thieves broke into the magnificent chateau outside Paris, second only to Versailles in the French royal domain, and made off with treasures worth about Fr2 million (£260,000) which once belonged to Napoleon I.

The crooks drove up to the chateau's back entrance at around midnight on Thursday night, forced the lock on



Papandreu: taken to intensive care unit

ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, the Greek Prime Minister, was taken to the intensive care unit of a heart hospital yesterday with suspected pneumonia.

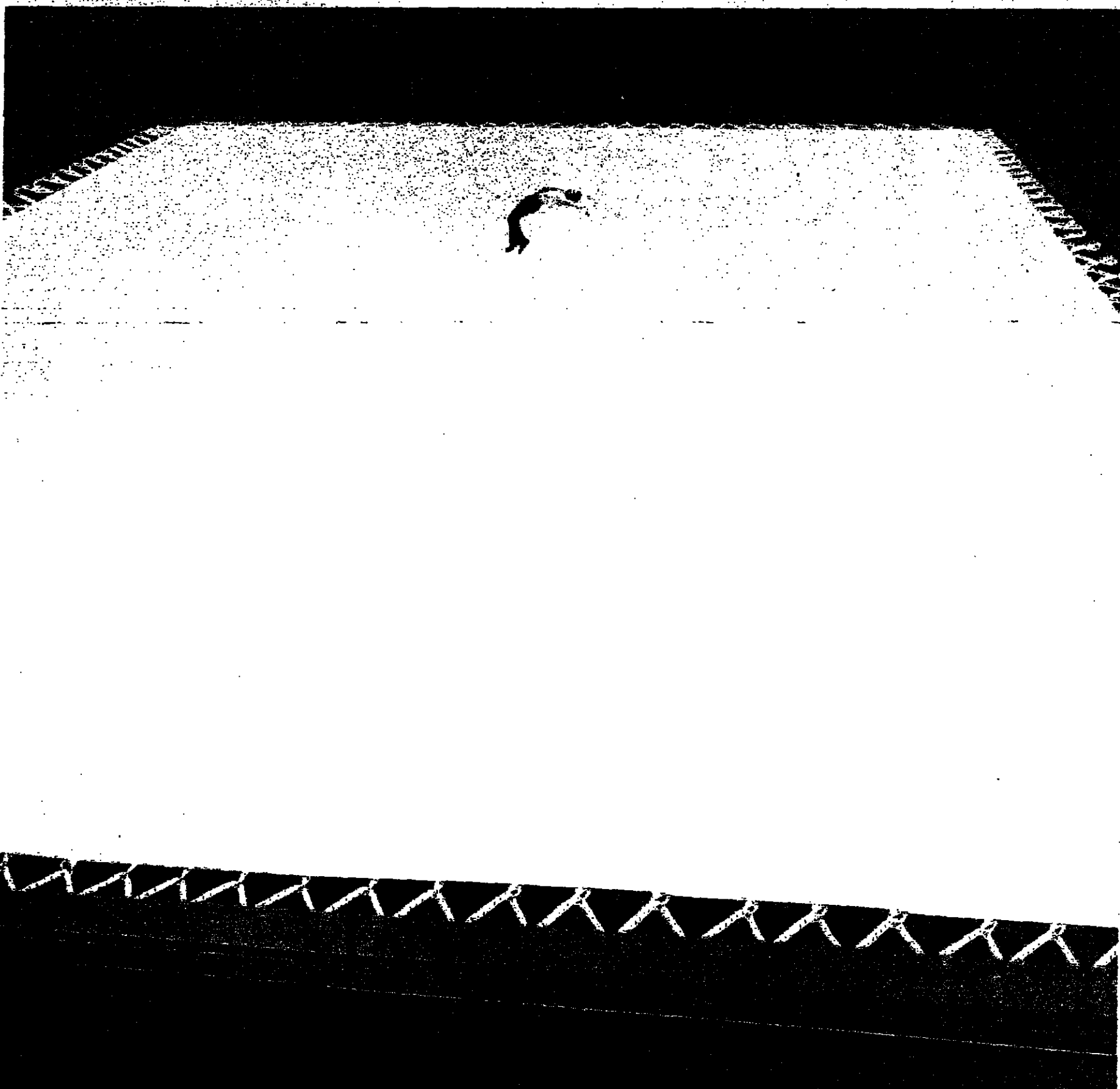
The emergency sparked new fears over the frail health of the 76-year-old Socialist. Medical sources at the Onassis Cardiology Centre, where Mr Papandreu was driven in mid-morning, said a respiratory infection could trigger or indicate serious heart problems.

The atmosphere at the central Athens headquarters of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement was described as "grave". In the event of the Prime Minister's death, there is no clear succession procedure. Socialist deputies oppose the apparent desire of his wife, Mimi, to succeed him.

The general share price index on the Athens Stock Exchange fell 15 points on the news, while the Bank of Greece had to spend about £300 million to fend off a speculative attack on the drachma.

It is the second time Mr Papandreu has been taken suddenly ill in as many months and his susceptibility to illness has increased doubts about his ability to govern.

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The missing treasures were probably stolen "to order" for an unscrupulous collector, according to antiquities experts. Investigators say the robbery at Fontainebleau is similar to another carried out last summer at the Military Museum in Paris.

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Victory
hailed
in East
by Left

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Ex-communist's triumph spells end of Walesa era

Victory hailed in East by Left

By Roger Boyes

POLAND has chosen to dismiss its President, Lech Walesa, the hero of the Solidarity revolution, and replace him with Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former Communist politician.

According to results compiled by the PAP news agency, the margin of victory was narrow: 51.7 per cent to Mr Kwasniewski and 48.3 per cent for Mr Walesa.

The Polish leader refused to comment until the final papers had been counted, but Marek Karpinski, his spokesman, said: "Mr President is not thrilled with the result, and why should he be? But obviously we all, and Poland, needed such a lesson."

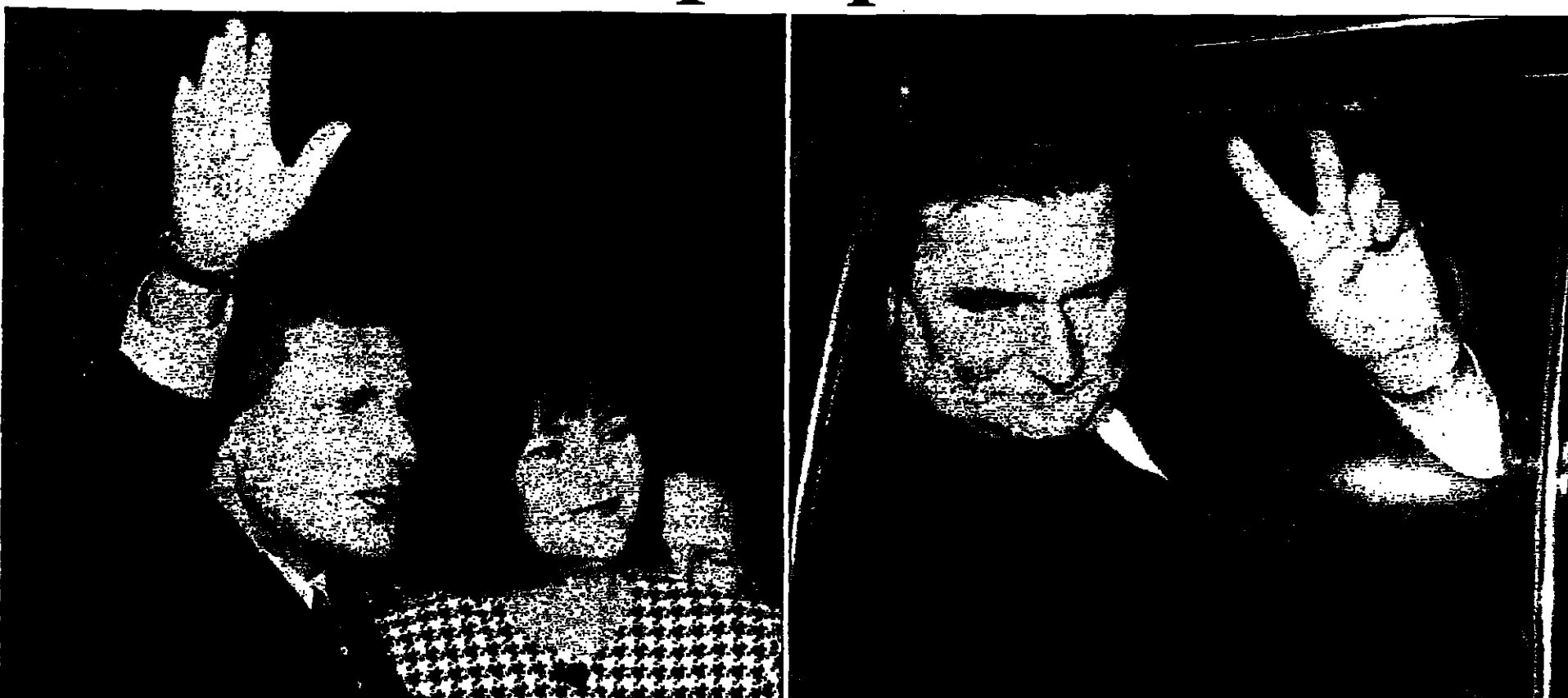
Three ministers who owe their appointments to the President immediately presented their resignations. The Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and the Interior will essentially be run by caretakers until Mr Kwasniewski is sworn in as President on December 23. "I respect the outcome of democratic elections but I do not accept the single-party system which is now approaching," said Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, the Foreign Minister.

Solidarity had already given warnings against a "red triangle" — Government, parliament and presidency controlled by the heirs of the old regime — but for some years there has been a Solidarity triangle and the result was by no means monolithic. Solidarity had splintered and corruption had been rife over the past six years.

Mr Kwasniewski's victory was greeted by six former Communist governments and parties throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Former Communists have been successful in Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary. In Russia, Communists look set for success in next month's elections.

Even Germany's Christian Democratic Union issued a prompt statement saying it was willing to work closely with the former Communists. Despite his political background, Mr Kwasniewski shares most of the foreign policy goals of Mr Walesa, including early entry to Nato and the European Union. But there is great concern in Poland that Mr Walesa's defeat will open the way for the return of disgraced members of the martial law regime.

Leading article, page 19



Aleksander Kwasniewski and his wife, Jolanta, celebrate at a party in Warsaw, while Lech Walesa keeps his spirits up after meeting Solidarity friends in Gdansk

Opposition mantle awaits discarded hero

During Lech Walesa's final election press conference, the lights failed. "Fire the electrician!" shouted the President into the darkness. Poland has now done just that: it has sacked the bright shipyard electrician who puffed and puffed until the Communist house came tumbling down.

Polish commentators were describing his defeat yesterday as a national tragedy and a personal disaster for the discarded head of state. However, it is wrong to assume that Mr Walesa will automatically withdraw from political life — to milk the lecture circuit or prod Warner Bros to take out another \$1 million (£640,000) film option on his autobiography. The closely fought and often bitter election has shown that he has a role as leader of a new anti-communist opposition party in parliament.

Part of Poland's problem has been the inability of Mr Walesa to transform himself from revolutionary into institutional politician in the way that Nelson Mandela in South Africa and Vaclav Havel in the Czech Republic have, with varying degrees of success. Mr Walesa, by contrast, discovered that he had only one political talent, a genius for destruction. The same energy that was used to break Communism in the 1980s was used against six governments while he was President.

The past five years of Mr Walesa's rule were conducted on the fringe of constitutional legality; the wooing of individual members of the general staff was particularly dangerous. His inability to play by establishment rules pitted him against governments of all complexion, from Right to Left. The result was chaos, a permanent Punch and Judy show.

Many Poles voted for Aleksander Kwasniewski out of Walesa-fatigue. The rough charm, broken grammar



Roger Boyes examines how the closely fought Polish election has left a clear role for the defeated Lech Walesa as the leader of an anti-communist opposition

and schoolboy humour were outweighed by Mr Walesa's constant politicisation of everyday life. The economy, 60 per cent privatised and with a 6 per cent growth, has developed its own dynamic.

Mr Walesa has had very little influence on this development, barring a few public appeals for foreign investment. He has, therefore, not been identified with Poland's greatest success story. Instead, the Poles who feel left behind by market reform looked to him for protection. In the early years of Mr Walesa's

presidency, delegations of frustrated workers would crowd into the ornate reception room of the Belvedere Palace, lobbying for help to save a factory, a coalmine or a whole region. By the end of his presidency, no workers got closer to him than the palace gates.

Partly because his presidential powers were so limited in economic affairs — the most he can do is question the budget law — and partly because he had become so evidently bored with their problems, the miners, the welders and the farmers

had stopped trying to capture his attention. Many more workers than expected voted on Sunday for Mr Kwasniewski.

Mr Walesa's failure is above all a personal one. He has re-invented himself many times. Brought up as a country boy, Mr Walesa fashioned himself into a shipyard worker. In the early 1970s he was something of a model worker, but suddenly turned into a rebel.

From rebel to strike leader to revolutionary, from revolutionary to political prisoner and non-person, from political pariah to influential backstage politician, from tactician to the presidency: these were complex passages.

Each transition took him further from his roots, each change of location from prison to palace was marked by a shedding of friendships and allies. The cliché of lonely

leadership has become Mr Walesa's fate, with his advisers chosen for their loyalty rather than on their merits. Almost invariably these loyalists were dismissed in the most disloyal of ways.

It was a paradox that Mr Walesa created an organisation called Solidarity because he so clearly lacks the protective qualities associated with the word. The seeds of defeat on Sunday were sown when he decided in the most brutal of ways to shatter the Solidarity movement between 1989 and 1991. His manner of doing so destroyed the chances for the construction of a Polish Centre-Right, a strong functioning Christian Democracy that could have come into play on his behalf.

Poles wanted more solidarity, not less. By some strange twist of history, the Poles have voted in a former Communist to satisfy that need. The best option available for Mr Walesa is to re-invent himself yet again, as a parliamentarian.

The most significant lesson of the presidential elections was the early failure of Jacek Kuron, a dissident and former adviser to Mr Walesa. Mr Kuron regularly comes top in popularity surveys yet he succeeded in winning only 12 per cent of the vote and dropped out in the first round. He was a victim of the poorly developed party structure in Poland. Had he been backed by a sophisticated party organisation, Mr Kuron could well now have been the new Polish President.

There are signs that Mr Walesa has drawn conclusions from Mr Kuron's failure: Poland needs a strong opposition party, and a shrewd politician to lead it. There is still a job vacant for Mr Walesa.

□ Roger Boyes is the author of *The Naked President: a political life of Lech Walesa*; Secker & Warburg, £20



Lech Walesa being carried by workers to a rally at a steelworks near Warsaw in 1981 when he was leader of the Solidarity organisation, which challenged and toppled Communist rule in Poland

Tempting time for the old pals' act

By Roger Boyes

THREE years ago, Aleksander Kwasniewski was a chubby yesterday's man: a former Communist minister, an ex-party journalist, he seemed to be concentrating on enjoying life at the margins of politics.

He and his estate agent wife, Jolanta, could be seen dancing a version of the twist at Warsaw parties — often the wrong ones, patronised or thrown by the unloved Jerzy

Urban, press spokesman of the martial law regime in the 1980s. Suddenly, Mr Kwasniewski started to lose weight through a combination of tennis, swimming, and a strict diet: he acquired an artificial tan. The Polish suits, pockets bulging with diaries, were traded in for Pierre Cardin. Mr Kwasniewski was clearly in training for the presidency. He had a lean and hungry look.

Former Communists are a mystery in Central Europe. How Communist are they? How former? Mr Kwasniewski was editor of a lively youth weekly and a virtually unrecalled daily called *Standar Miodoch*, which were springboards to success in the Communist youth movement and ensured he caught the eye of another journalist-politician, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Communist former Prime Minister, who awarded him the undemanding sports portfolio with a brief to look young.

The question is not whether the 41-year-old Mr Kwasniewski has ambition, but rather whether he has courage. Above all, he needs the courage to leave behind his friends. His celebration party on Sunday night did not inspire confidence: it was crowded with ghosts from the past who believe that their time has come again.

Mr Kwasniewski's victory was waver-thin. He must, despite his atheistic background, work out a modus vivendi with a very suspicious Roman Catholic Church. He must reassure the West that swift European Union and Nato entry is his goal, lest Western critics of eastwards enlargement use his election to slow the process.

Above all, Mr Kwasniewski has to resist Communist cronyism. If party hacks are installed in the police, army and foreign service, there will be trouble ahead. He seems bright enough to see these problems.

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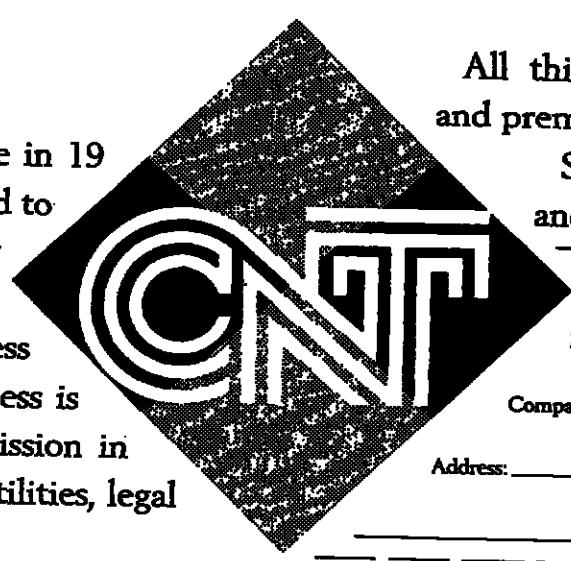


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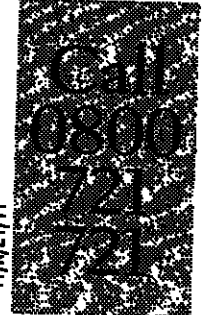


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A newly licensed drug offers relief from the pain of Paget's disease, a particularly British complaint, says Dr Thomas Stuttford

One British person in 14 over the age of 40 has Paget's disease, a bone disorder first described, in 1877, by Sir James Paget, Queen Victoria's surgeon. It is particularly common in people of British descent, especially those who hail from the North West, and is comparatively rare in Scandinavia, the Far East and Africa.

Symptoms are mild in the great majority of cases but in 5 per cent it causes severe deformity, pain and immobility. Recently a new drug, Aredia (pamidronate disodium), has been licensed to treat the disease and for the first time offers a chance of keeping the symptoms at bay, even if as yet it has not been shown to cure the underlying illness.

Those patients with severe Paget's

When bones get out of balance

whose future activity would have been constrained by brittle bones, by the danger of spontaneous fracture, by arthritic joints twisted into painful and unnatural positions, by facial deformity and by the pain not only from the arthritis but also from the soft vascular-expanded bone which has stretched its normal confines, can now look forward to a more comfortable middle or old age.

Like the other tissues of the body, our bones are constantly being renewed. Those which allow us to stride to work today are already appreciably different

from those that supported us during the VE-Day celebrations earlier in the year. Nail-clippings, the hair on the barber's floor and the shed skin which accumulates under a bandage are visible evidence of tissue renewal, and a comparable but hidden process is continually rebuilding bones.

The correct balance of bone loss and gain is maintained by two groups of cells, the osteoblasts which lay down new bone tissue and the osteoclasts which remove



the old. In addition this bone tissue, merely a matrix, needs the addition of calcium, mineralisation, to give it strength. When the delicate symmetry in the action of the osteoclasts and osteoblasts is lost, bone remodelling is accelerated and Paget's disease results; too much osteoclastic activity and the bone is destroyed, leaving only the hard fibrous framework; too much osteoblastic activity and the bone becomes thickened but weakened.

Sufferers sometimes develop an enlarged head, often compared to a lion's but in fact more like a heraldic leopard. The lower limbs weakened by the new soft bones are no longer able to bear the body's weight and in consequence bow outwards. As well as causing pain and disability this change in the structure of the bone can result in pressure on nerves, including the brain stem and the spinal cord. Deafness may also result. The increased blood supply to the bones can be so great as to cause an unnatural temperature in the overlying skin, and in

some cases the enhanced vascularity of the bone puts a strain on the heart.

Those patients with mild Paget's disease need no treatment beyond simple analgesics. Severe cases have been treated either with calcitonin or the first generation bisphosphonates. Both groups of drug alter osteoclastic activity.

The new drug, Aredia, is a second generation bisphosphonate. Its advantages are that after intravenous infusions, over six weeks, the patient can usually expect a two-year remission and the relief of pain. It is hoped in the future that chemotherapy with ever-improving bisphosphonates may eradicate abnormal osteoclasts and, rather than just obtain remission, effect a permanent cure.

Inside the Queen Mother's hospital

Rosemary Righter, a recent hip patient at King Edward VII's, describes the royal road to recovery

The Queen Mother should by now be sedately pacing the corridors of King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, her legs garbed in an extremely elegant pair of thick white stockings à la Marie Antoinette. This is a house rule for hip patients and a thoroughly sensible precaution against thrombosis; their elegance is just a bonus. She will be on familiar territory, for she has been there before, and she will be approving of all she sees. For, if you have to have something as daunting as a hip replacement — an operation to test anybody's fortitude, at any age — there could be no better place to be.

King Edward VII's is tucked discreetly away behind Devonshire Street, unremarked by passers-by. To the profession and most of those lucky enough to have been patients there, the hospital is universally known as Sister Agnes, in affectionate memory of its formidable founder.

Its connection with the Royal Family dates back to its beginnings in 1899, the year before the Queen Mother was born. It was at the suggestion of their friend, the Prince of Wales, that Miss Agnes Keyser and her sister started the hospital to nurse officers wounded in the Boer War; in

1903 the Prince, now Edward VII, gave the hospital its name.

It is now a charity which aims "to provide the best possible treatment at the lowest cost" for officers and their immediate families. Beds and nursing are free for serving officers and heavily subsidised for retired officers and their families; in case of need, the Sister Agnes Benevolent Fund may assist with theatre, medical and consultants' charges. Civilians are admitted at the hospital's discretion.

Exercises in the pool will help her to get back on her feet

Portraits of the Royal Family will greet the Queen Mother in the lobby; her visitors may wait in the library where Harold Macmillan, after his prostate operation, gave her daughter the news that ill-health forced him to relinquish the premiership. But there is neither pomp nor luxury to Sister Agnes. Except for the stairs, there are no carpets, just Air Force blue (non-slip) linoleum. Fine perspectives on Spitfires in action and other military images decorate the walls of a delightfully high proportion of the rooms — which are well designed but, even by plebeian standards, fairly small.

The food is beautifully presented and very good, but it is plain. And just as well: I remember one splendid old colonel, a much-decorated Second World War veteran, who could be heard bellowing into his telephone that "X had the first hours of that second day at Arnhem absolutely wrong", who complained bitterly when a sprig of parsley appeared on top of his breakfast scrambled eggs. He hadn't, he complained, come to a bloody hotel. Indeed, he had not: no hotel, for a start, would invite you to register rank and regiment on the admissions form (leaving a very discreet box at the bottom for the humble word, civilian).

The Queen Mother will also enjoy the fact that Sister Agnes is small. She will by now know



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at the Remembrance ceremony at Westminster Abbey shortly before her operation

almost all the nurses, cleaners and catering staff on her floor. She will also trust them utterly — or at least as much as any patient ever trusts the person who is about to change their dressing, take out their stitches or tell them that they really must get back out of bed again. This is not a hospital in which nurses learn by doing, with you as the guinea-pig; as a three-times patient in the past three years, I am convinced that they are the best — the most deft, knowledgeable and sympathetic — in the world. She may be feeling fine, as

we all hope, and positively looking forward to the next stage: the swimming pool in the basement. Not exactly a swimming pool, this marvelous amenity is pool-shaped, heated up to warm bath temperature, and a daily rendezvous for the walking and not-yet-walking wounded.

The exercises she will do under careful personal supervision should take her back to childhood. They resemble the sedatest form of ballet exercises: swing leg forward, now back, now to the side, back straight, ma'am, please, now

some plies. They also happen to be the best way imaginable of getting, almost painlessly, back on the road.

Surroundings matter, because reactions to this operation differ a lot. In my own case, the pain when I came round after the operating theatre was such that I simply could not imagine that the bit of tin or whatever they had put where my broken hip had been would ever be bearable; but I met other patients in the corridors — people in their late

eighties — who were positively skipping along on two sticks after a few days, saying how much better they felt and how little it all hurt. I told a nurse, rather miserably, what a wimp it made me feel: she replied, with admirable tact: "I'll let you into a secret: when it comes to a jab, the worst cowards are the men who hold the Victoria Cross."

Further information on the Friends of King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers may be obtained by writing to the Appeals Office, 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR.

Why chickenpox is not a one-off disease

The first rash may not be the last, reports Dr Trisha Greenhalgh

HOW MANY times can you get chickenpox? Many doctors are convinced that a second dose in an otherwise healthy person is impossible, and I was inclined to think so too until I developed a rash after contact with a chickenpox patient. I had definitely had the disease as a child, so my crop of spots aroused a fair degree of interest among my medical colleagues. What I did not expect was the interest from readers when I wrote about my experience on this page (September 5).

Nearly 50 people wrote to disagree with the conventional medical opinion. A Leicester man recalls having chickenpox twice in quick succession as a child; both episodes were confirmed by his doctor but aroused disbelief in other mothers. "They thought my mum was potty to suggest it," he writes. One woman's twins have apparently had five episodes between them, but a man from Rochester trumps this with four medically-confirmed episodes of chickenpox, and suggests, correctly I am sure, that the medical textbooks on which doctors have traditionally based their assertions were founded on poor evidence.

In fact, as Dr Bent Juel-Jensen, honorary consultant physician in the Nuffield Department of Medicine at Oxford University, points out, not all medical textbooks state that chickenpox never strikes twice. He writes: "Had Dr Greenhalgh attended my seminars on infectious diseases when she was a student, she might have learnt something to her advantage. The latest Oxford Textbook of Medicine describes... four brothers in a local family who had recur-

rent chickenpox: two of them had two attacks, one three and one eight attacks, all of increasing severity. The family was fully investigated, both for immune defects (none was found), and virologically."

I have no defence for my abysmal attendance at lectures and seminars as a student, but I am aware that many experts now believe the frequency of chickenpox infection, particularly second attacks, to be increasing. In addition, shingles (a localised rash caused by the same virus and occurring only in people who have had chickenpox), which used to be a disease of the elderly, is being seen in young adults, children and even babies. Several correspondents describe recurrent shingles in themselves or their children.

When I had my rash, a consultant virologist analysed two samples of my serum — one taken recently, the other a few years back — to check whether I had encountered two different immunological variants of the chickenpox virus several years apart. As often happens in medicine, these tests were inconclusive, but similar analyses on other patients suggest that the virus is changing subtly over the years to evade immune defences.

SUCH changes would not, of course, explain the high susceptibility to chickenpox which runs in certain families such as the unfortunate set of brothers described by Dr Juel-Jensen. As he points out, severe chickenpox in adults needs urgent treatment, and the new antiviral drug famciclovir is very effective.

Dr Greenhalgh is a GP in north London.

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Will *Free As A Bird* be a Christmas turkey? Giles Coren seeks the pundits' views, plus David Sinclair's critical verdict

The Beatles: all you need is hype

At 4 o'clock yesterday morning the B-Day landings began. Thanks to a world-wide embargo for US television, it was in the grim cold hours before dawn that the first new Beatles song for more than 25 years took off into the air from radio stations all over Britain to launch the biggest campaign Beatlemania has known since the 1960s.

Virgin FM has been playing *Free As A Bird* virtually non-stop ever since. A television programme last night, *The Beatles - All Together Now*, provided a taste of hype to come, and tomorrow sees the release of *The Beatles Anthology 1*, a new album containing 60 mostly unreleased tracks.

But *Free As A Bird* is more than unreleased, it was not even recorded. It is a product of virtual pop — John Lennon's voice taken from a demo tape and rearranged with accompaniment by the three musicians who grew old as he did not.

But age has wearied today's Beatles fans, and though the song is widely tipped to occupy the lucrative Christmas number one slot, there are those who have been waiting years to condemn this long-mooted venture. Ultimately, though, it is the DJs and music writers who will determine whether or not it is all over by Christmas. Forgetting the hype, what did they actually think of the song?

"It is total rubbish," shrieks Jonathan King, responsible for the odd dodgy tune himself in years gone by. "It sounds like a very bad demo made by elderly session musicians struggling to earn a crust. It reeks of money, not of enthusiasm or musical inventiveness."

But won't it go to number one anyway? "Not if anyone has any taste, it won't. John Lennon would have been ashamed to think it would ever see the light of day — you can almost hear him at the end of the record saying 'What a load of rubbish. Thank God no one will ever hear it.'"

It is possible that a younger British public — weaned on Beatles derivatives like Pulp and Oasis — will be more forgiving. Paul Lester, features editor of *Melody Maker*, takes a sober view. "We will have to give some grudging



Norman Parkinson's 1963 photograph of the Fab Four. "The Beatles still have a Moonie-like hold on the British public"

respect to this song simply because every band we cover is influenced by the Beatles.

"I would like to be able to dismiss it completely, and in 1981 I would have been able to. Music had gone electronic and the Beatles were forgotten. But pop being the cyclical thing it is, I can't. Punk critics like Tony Parsons and Julie Burchill would have slammed it. They would have taken the attitude of a 1978 *NME* cover that showed John Lennon, among others, under the words 'Take these gods and stuff them.'"

But punk is dead. "This is a comfort thing," says Mr Lester. "There is something reassuring about the technically proficient masters coming back to upstage the new young bucks. It is a little macabre,

this voice from the grave. Queen have just done it with Freddie Mercury. But the fact is that the Beatles still have a sinister hold on the British public. It is almost Moonie-like. And it is stronger now than at any time since the 1960s. They have got their timing so right it's frightening."

Jim Irvin of *Mojo*, a more middle-of-the-road music magazine, offers a warmer welcome. "For an old Beatles fan like me who bought the records the first time around, it is great to hear. The drums don't sound like Ringo's, and the guitars have been tweaked in a way that didn't exist in the original. It's a little disappointing, but it's a good thing that Paul McCartney is as quick to establish. This

is not Whiffles singing *Saturday Night*," he says. "People are very quick to judge negatively but if there is depth it doesn't necessarily show itself immediately."

"Any new Beatles song is better than no new Beatles song, but I have listened to it three times and I am delighted. Not just because the record is very good, but because of the historical continuity. The vocal harmonies are reminiscent of *Abbey Road*, the last album they recorded."

"They are very much taking up where they left off, and in that sense this is an important historical document. There may be grounds for cynicism at the timing, but it is easy to get caught up in your own parochial thing of the moment, and lose the historical

importance of this stuff — the single and the album. Producer George Martin is 69, and the other three are in their fifties. It had to be done before they all joined John. They couldn't wait for ever."



Cashing in on yesterday

IT BEGINS with *Free As A Bird*, the "new" single on which so much of this album's commercial hopes are pinned. Given the track's unlikely genesis as an unfinished home demo, it isn't too bad. John Lennon's vocal is distant and distorted, and Ringo Starr's slow, plodding beat sounds rhythmically impoverished by today's standards. But the chord sequence has several interesting twists, and a mediocre performance is rescued by Paul McCartney's vocal, which takes over from Lennon's on the bridging sequence, and by George Harrison's slide guitar, which soars as free as the limitations of the song allow.

As an attempt to recreate the "authentic" glory of the Beatles, however, it leaves much to be desired, not least in Jeff Lynne's typically stolid production. Granted, he has pulled off a unique technical feat, but how on earth has he managed to make *Free As A Bird* sound more like a Travelling Wilburys outfit (the group featuring Lynne, Harrison,

Bob Dylan and others), than a Beatles song?

The rest of the album, all two hours of it, is an archeological dig through another raft of previously unissued recordings and snippets of speech, similar in content and presentation to last year's immensely successful *Live At The BBC* album. Some of it — such as the hideously amateurish Quarry Men recordings of *That'll Be The Day* and *In Spite Of All Danger*, from 1958 — is virtually unlistenable, and most of it is superfluous to the great body of Beatles work that already exists.

Decca has often been chastised for failing to sign the Beatles, but on the strength of the five tracks featured here which they recorded for their audition on New Year's Day 1962, the record company's decision seems perfectly logical.

THERE ARE many revealing moments, as when a couple of takes of *One After 909* fall apart because McCartney is having trouble coping with the bass line. The group's witty repartee with Morecambe and Wise, ending in a yowling chorus of *Moonlight Bay* recalls their talent as humorous entertainers beyond their incredible musical prowess. But you really wouldn't want to hear these episodes more than once or twice.

Still, there are some breathtaking live versions of old favourites, notably a batch including *Money*, *You Really Got A Hold On Me* and *Roll Over Beethoven* recorded on Swedish radio in 1963, and for all its faults, *Anthology 1* undeniably throws new light on this most extraordinary group. But in strictly musical terms this stuff wasn't good enough then, and it doesn't sound much better now.

Why do we see drugs as a panacea for life?

Last week was E-Abominable Week: this week sees the Grateful Users of Ecstasy staking their claim. The cycles move with ever-increasing speed these days, hurrying unbecomingly to take over from one another. No view, no matter what it concerns, is allowed to mature before it is revised. And it is,

anyway, somewhat in the nature of drugs that substances are either demonised or glorified: we should hardly expect reasoned debate to emanate from that oxymoronic construct, the drug culture.

Those hoping to rehabilitate the reputation of E in the minds of those still shocked by the picture of Leah Betts, intubated in intensive care, are plugging its therapeutic benefits. It can be used as an effective painkiller (better than morphine because it leaves users in control of their faculties), as an effective aid in conquering alcoholism (in laboratory tests, apparently alcoholic rats, administered with the drug, stop craving alcohol within three days), in treating depression and Alzheimer's, and as a means of unlocking the tortured psyche of the pent-up and suffocatingly unhappy; in short, this miracle drug is no less than "penicillin for the soul".

As if to illustrate the boons and benisons it brings, Swiss marriage guidance counselors — who legally used the drug in their counselling ses-

We are shocked by the casualties, yet we have a culture of dependency

sions up until last year — point to a portrait drawn under the influence of E. Part of the treatment involved the couples drawing pictures of each other, two each: one drawn sober, one after taking Ecstasy. Two such pictures are used in evidence, as it were, and illustrate the point: the portrait done by the artist in normal state is a fair representation; the same subject drawn while the artist was "liberated" by Ecstasy is supposedly an insightful, uninhibited, uncensoring sketch. In other words, a dreadful drawing.

This says everything one needs to know about drugs. In other words, they do not make the people who take them more interesting — as all drug users seem to think — they just allow them to think they are,



NIGELLA LAWSON

They do not make them more talented, more in touch with their creative powers: they just encourage them to treat with awe their own inept articulations and bad art. They may well make one lose one's inhibition, but to treat as an undoubted good the desire to lose control over oneself in public seems itself worthy of treatment.

The hypocrisy over drugs is quite sickening. I don't mean by this the huge numbers of lawyers, politicians and eminent persons who pass the joint round, with the port, after dinner. On the whole, dope-smoking has now become so routine — I come across more people who refuse a drink than who turn down a token on the post-prandial spill — that much of the con-

comitant chat about the drug has ceased. And as one must surely recognise, any small-time, silent hypocrisy over the taking of illegal drugs by legislators is preferable to the tedious drone issuing from drug-culture bores. I don't mind who takes drugs as long as they're not my children or yours and I don't have to hear them talk about it.

No, the real hypocrisy lies in the constant shocked disapproval about the ever-increasing number of crack addicts and Ecstasy casualties, when the whole of our culture seems wedded to drug dependency. The number of people who are taking Prozac grows daily and gaily. I am not opposed to antidepressants on principle — as they say, some of my best friends take Prozac — but I can't help thinking that to address oneself to the reasons one might be depressed might be more helpful in the long run than numbing the pain pharmacologically. That's not to say a drug can't be an appropriate treatment, of course, but I object to the notion of a panacea for life.

It gets worse: now children as young as eight are being given Prozac. I can't believe that anyone should think difficult, unhappy children should just be treated with drugs to make them more amenable? Surely it's better to see what's causing the disturbance. This week comes news of another wonder drug to cure anxiety. Paroxetine, or as its brand-name will be, Serenid, is to "cure" people prone to panic attacks.

I understand that these disorders and events may be caused, scientifically speaking, by a chemical reaction in the brain. But one is not depressed just because of brain chemistry: there is something which triggers that chemical reaction. That's what we shouldn't be ignoring. It seems no one, neither the clinical nor recreational user, can shake of the Huxleyesque view of drugs as giving one access to a higher plane of understanding. But drugs don't make one feel more, they make one feel less: that's their lure, and their danger.

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A new truce with old Communists

Eastern Europe needs opposition parties, writes Roger Boyes

Poles were yesterday behaving as if they had been struck by a natural disaster. If Red Cross workers had patrolled the streets with collection boxes marked "Save Wales", they would have gathered enough to provide blankets and hot soup for every unemployed man between the Oder and the Bug. It seemed almost churlish to point out that the sacking of Lech Walesa and his replacement by a former Communist was not an act of God but a democratic choice.

I fielded two phone calls yesterday from Poles who thought they would never again be given a passport to travel abroad; scare stories abound.

There is admittedly a problem with electing a relatively unknown former Communist. How much of a Communist is he? How former? The signs are that Aleksander Kwasniewski, the smooth, 41-year-old, sunbed-tanned winner of the election, believes in nothing at all. He was a reformed Communist when that was fashionable in the late 1980s; in the confused 1990s he can be all things to all men — which for a president with little constitutionally guaranteed power, is not such a bad thing.

Even so, the question "How Communist?" is one that will have to be asked again and again as Central and Eastern Europe rediscover the Left. There is no longer a monolithic Left waiting in the wings to bring order to the secret police archives, jail dissidents and close down churches. There are shades and nuances which have to be monitored carefully. Honourable social democratic traditions have to be taken into account, as do the new democratic constraints on politicians.

Former Communists are not by definition wolves in sheep's coats. Georgia's Eduard Shevardnadze and Hungary's Gyula Horn may have their troubles at home, but they deserve respect rather than suspicion. The rise of the Russian Communist Party leader Gennadi Zyuganov needs, however, to be considered more cautiously.

He was quick yesterday to praise Kwasniewski's victory over Walesa. "There is nothing surprising in this, because across Europe there is a movement to the left, and this is taking place here in Russia as well." Zyuganov naturally hopes that he will be able to ride to power in the Duma elections on December 17 on the back of a popular revolt against market reform. But Zyuganov does not earn many stars in the Red Guide to Good Communists. There is a nationalist tinge to his socialism. Lenin still lurks in the background and the main source of his support — the industrial elite — has a real chance of rolling back capitalism if he wins.

Both Horn of Hungary and Kwasniewski of Poland are less dangerous than Zyuganov. Reform in both countries has developed its own momentum, and is now large-

ly beyond the meddling of politicians. Despite the political chaos of the past few years, the Polish economy grew 6.5 per cent in the first half of this year, and industrial output rose 13 per cent; around 60 per cent of production is already in private hands. It is not the Polish President who defines the level of subsidies to state industry, and he has limited power to break up monopolies.

But the Polish head of state does have a duty to complete the Solidarity revolution. That this task should fall on a former Communist is a strange twist of history. Since 1989, parliaments in Central and Eastern Europe have developed an exaggerated role in political life. They were, of course, freely elected, but the parties represented in these debating chambers are for the most part party creatures, little more than clubs of dissidents who have rented offices in the major cities.

In Polish elections in 1991, 120 parties took part and 29 parties won seats in Parliament. A 5 per cent hurdle introduced before the 1993 elections had the effect of excluding most right-wing parties. The result is a Parliament dominated by the former Communists, the only party with a genuine national structure and reliable source of funding.

So the true nature of the problem in Central Europe is not the apparent rise of the Left, but the absence of a political Centre. Party organisations have to be developed, intelligently advised, allowed to grow and become serious rivals to the former Communists. Moreover, local government has to be encouraged and democratic institutions have to be protected. The battle for control of state television has become a permanent feature of political life in Poland and in the rest of the region: neither Kwasniewski nor Walesa offered to turn Polish television into a public service like the BBC.

A good Polish president, claiming to represent all Poles and not just the 51 per cent who voted for him, will address these problems even if it means arguing with his old party chums. Mr Kwasniewski may well be up to the challenge. Much depends on whether he has the courage to make enemies out of his political allies.

Lech Walesa certainly had that quality (and ended up with no friends at all), but he had no real sense of institutional power. He had the chance to be a Nelson Mandela or a Vaclav Havel, but he lacks the imagination, vision or patience to make a good leader in this odd era of European transition. As President, Kwasniewski could make it his first gesture to encourage Walesa to stay in politics and start his own opposition party. Together, in their different ways, they might be able to complete Poland's unfinished revolution.



NEXT MOVIE?

21.11.95

Princess of publicity

The Princess of Wales is indeed a national asset, and she must be used

Last week I broke ranks with most commentators and defended the Princess of Wales's right to duck under the Palace wire and address us directly. She is a woman who, whatever her faults, has spent her youth enduring a difficult, often humiliating, and at times probably rather frightening royal career. It is only fair that she should be allowed to give us her perspective on it; that, like a princess in some sadistic fairytale, she should be free for one hour from her imprisoning disguise of "spokesman" and "friends". I expressed a mild hope that this hour would blow away some of the mythical images of her as little girl lost, manipulative neurotic or sexual siren, and stimulate a sensible discussion about how the nation can best use her talents.

Well, we have heard her, and this is the morning to begin that discussion. In computer language, what you see is what you get: we saw her and we know that we have got her for keeps. The days of shovelling unwanted and embarrassing womenfolk into secure convents are long gone, one suspects to the regret of some constitutional commentators and "friends of Charles", who clearly yearn for the grille-and-wimple option whenever they set eyes on the Princess. She is here to stay.

And why not? She is the mother of our next king's two sons. That alone gives her a role. Moreover, she is still his wife. Our age has developed a deplorable habit of writing first wives out of the script to avoid embarrassing public figures; how many celebrity couples have been probed in domestic bliss lately without any mention of the still-living, carefully forgotten first bride? Plainly, the Princess does not wish to be written out like this; unlike most spurned wives, she has the clout to prevent it. The Prince has publicly admitted his infidelity to her (albeit after the marriage had, in his opinion, broken down) and, almost worse, the work of his close biographer Jonathan Dimbleby makes it pretty clear that he married the poor girl in the first place without the kind of love that a 19-year-old expects of marriage, and that he pushed ahead with this cynical scheme on his father's impatient urging.

In the old arrogant phrase, he "took a wife". And so did we, the nation and its media. We rejoiced sentimentally over the wedding, built

her into an icon before she was 21, and piled heaps of comment and criticism on her long before she had a chance to pull herself together and fight back. Lord Wakeham is wrong to say that Diana compromised her own right to privacy and the "protection" of the PCC by the *Panorama* interview, and earlier by her coyness with Andrew Morton. Who is he to ask that a fellow human being should give up any attempt to rebut fantastical newspaper speculation about her life? This speculation occurs weekly under what he proudly calls "the PCC's protection": Diana might well retort that to judge by her past ten years, newspaper self-regulation is about as much use as a paper hat in a monsoon. It did not begin with Morton: a look back through the archives would show Lord Wakeham that for years before that book she suffered: snatched photographs of her pregnant in a bikini, reports of her being anorexic, going crazy, shrieking at Charles, spoiling Prince William, wandering around with a Walkman on her head like a zombie, banishing her husband's friends, sacking staff, and so on. She never was protected, not for one minute. The nation has been sucking her blood for years.

And yes, all right, like any vampire's victim she has developed a liking for it. At the time of her "withdrawal" from public life a couple of years ago, a group of us idly devised a strategy to keep the press off her back. What she must do, we decided, was to stop being the National Blonde and become boring. We planned to take her out to lunch somewhere unfashionable — perhaps a Welcome Break service area — and tutor her in how to be too dull for the press. It would have been easy: Englishmen very easily get bored with women. You only have to look at their poor glazed eyes at formal dinners when they sit next to the wives of colleagues to see that. All she

needed was put on a couple of stone, let the hair turn mousy, dress from Hardy Amies, wear depressing hats and devote herself to unphotogenic good causes and committees. She would keep away from the Taj Mahal and yuppie gyms, and take her exercise instead by walking black labradors across dreary Norfolk landscapes, preferably with an unflattering goose-turd-green Husky jacket and a bright red nose.

That would choke the press off in no time, sending them haring off in pursuit of some new National Blonde, probably Anthea Turner. As our Diana Dullness Strategy Group would have pointed out to her, the Princess Royal managed to get through divorce and remarriage with minimal publicity, simply by eschewing any attempt to fascinate and getting on with

tough, unglamorous jobs such as chairing the Victim Support advisory committee and trekking round Save the Children projects without once picking up a pretty child for the cameras. Diana could resolve to keep well away from Richard Branson, sports stars and ballet dancers, and on no account to hug Luciano Pavarotti.

But this strategy was only ever a Quixotic dream. We suspected that, and we know now, that the Princess of Wales and the media have become Siamese twins, too intimately and dangerously joined for any attempt at separation. The sheer skill and relish of the *Panorama* manoeuvre prove that she needs us as much as we need her. So if either of us is to get anywhere, we are going to have to learn to dance in step.

What is to be done? She clearly does not wish to be divorced, or not quickly; but even if she were, even if there were a Queen Camilla, Diana would continue to exist as a public figure, the future King Mother. She must be regularised, channelled, allowed to be useful. First of all, the Queen must rise above any resentment over the *Panorama* escapade and summon her son and daughter-

in-law together, for days if need be, to work out a strategy. If it includes divorce, there must be a timetable, and until the matter is final both parties should make certain that they have no public involvement with friends who might cause embarrassment. Especially, in the Prince's case, accredited ex-lovers.

Then there must be joint appearances on various balconies and church steps, during which it is made clear to everybody (not least their hapless children) that they are without rancour, and respect one another. Even if they don't. Moreover, they must pledge that their secretaries will work closely together to ensure that engagements do not clash or upstage one another. No more of those hilarious but demoralising days on which she puts on a very short skirt and hugs children to draw attention away from his tour of a pilschard factory, or waits for him to make a long-laboured-over speech on the environment before suddenly revealing through a friend on the *Daily Mail* that she has dived into the Serpentine to rescue a golden-haired child from an escaped piranha fish.

These things are not the fault of the media; they are the direct result of a genuine and deplorable rivalry between two hurt people. In private life, hurt people are entitled to behave like this. If they want to serve the nation, they have to pull themselves together and stop squabbling. The Queen is the referee. If she can't bang heads together, who can?

Diana has a talent of her own, a unique, magical presence. She uplifts the spirit, cheers the sick, makes children feel valuable, helps angry, lonely people to believe in human kindness. She has used frank admissions of her own depressions and self-loathing to reassure and heal the sadness of others. At her best, she warms the cockles of the nation's heart. That, as the French say, is not nothing.

So if she really wants to stay on in this royal variety show, it would be crazy to lock the stage door on her and risk her doing her own act on the pavement. Somebody — and it can probably only be the Queen — must now admit her talents, give her decent billing, and handle her right. A good impresario can put up with a bit of star temperament, and can make the rest of the cast, however reluctantly, do the same.

Labour would cost more

Woodrow Wyatt
on Mr Brown's
taxation gimmick

Labour appears to be falling apart. To cover its disarray, it has gone to live in gimmick-land. No one can take seriously Gordon Brown's declaration that, if Chancellor of the Exchequer, he would cut the standard rate of income tax to 10p, albeit in stages over an unspecified number of years. Obviously it is a wheeze in preparation for tax cuts expected in Kenneth Clarke's Budget next Tuesday — "anything you can do I can do better". Probably it is also a device to enable Labour to dodge an unpopular vote against what tax cuts there may be. Labour's own committee on social justice has already said that Gordon Brown's kind of income tax cuts would not help the poor.

Labour is all over the place on tax. Last week, during the CBI conference, Tony Blair said Labour would not return to its old 80 or 90 per cent taxes. But in view of his high-earning audience, he was excessively vague about how much top taxes would rise. Certainly back to 50 per cent, and probably to 60 per cent, as a show gesture pretending to pay for the boundless extra spending that Labour proposes. By this time even the merest economic neophyte should know that very high top-rate taxes always reduce the amount collected, and the wealth creation of the country, first because people choose not to work harder to earn more when so much goes to the taxman, and secondly because the main gainers are accountants, who invent ingenious ways to avoid penal taxes.

On the EU's social chapter, Mr Blair was laughably vague. He told the conference "the social chapter is not detailed legislation. It is a set of principles. Each piece of legislation will be judged on its merits. I have no intention whatever of agreeing to anything and everything that emerges from the EU." The Social Security Secretary, Peter Lilley, wrote to Mr Blair: "This is simply false. The social chapter is not a statement of principle. It is a transfer of power to make decisions about social policy... Once Britain had signed up... the British Parliament would be powerless to prevent measures being imposed on Britain against our will... Was your speech deliberately seeking to mislead your audience, or were you simply ignorant?" No reply has come from the artful Mr Blair.

Mr Blair has pledged to sign the social chapter. Immediately, we would have to enforce directives such as the European Works Councils Directive, the Parental Leave Directive, and the Part-time Work Directive. The combined burden on our businesses of these three alone could not be less than £2 billion a year. There is no way of taking the social chapter *à la carte* — most key social legislation is determined by qualified majority voting, and Britain would have no veto on future crushing legislation on hours of work, health and safety and so forth.

Compulsory works councils able to delay or frustrate vital business decisions, and shorter working weeks at the same or higher wages without extra productivity would restore the unions to their pre-Thatcher power. Added to which, Mr Blair has already promised the unions that much union legislation would be reversed, and that two new rights would be added. Unions would have the right to be recognised on demand, and new employees, whole or part-time, would have full rights on dismissal (which would greatly discourage businesses, particularly small ones, from taking on new staff). While pretending to embrace capitalism, Mr Blair would introduce the biggest bout of socialism ever, crippling our industry and doubling our unemployment within two years.

In every field Labour is vague or duplicitous. It opposes tightening of the rules to stem the spate of illegal immigrants (now about two million in the country) and of fraudulent asylum seekers, in the hope of winning support from the six million ethnic-minority voters. This may be a boomerang: the mainly law-abiding and useful new legal immigrants understandably fear victimisation. An upsurge of undesirables could lead to nasty racial conflicts, including whites against whites from Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

On education, the country is beginning to see through the hypocrisy of Labour leaders using independent grant-aided schools for their children while denying them to others. They plan a spiteful swipe at the Assisted Places Scheme, which gives the ablest of the poor access to the best public schools. And their projected £200 million windfall tax on privatised public utilities is simply a swindle on hundreds of thousands of small investors, who were never warned that when loss-making concerns became profitable after privatisation, the shareholders would be robbed. It is a cunning precedent for stealthy renationalisation without compensation.

Youthful charm, courage and innocence are attractive. Mr Blair has bravely torn some barnacles off "old" Labour's face, but it is still dominated by the instinct of envy and levelling, and the ineradicable belief that "the gentleman in Whitehall knows best".

P.H.S.

Film crew

MICK JAGGER'S lips are to take a rest from the microphone. He has embarked on a new career as a film-maker.

The gyrating rock star is to produce a film of Robert Harris's latest thriller, *Enigma*. Hugh Grant and Elizabeth Hurley have, as usual, been approached to star in the film, and they are reading the bestseller, which deals with the British operation at Bletchley that cracked the German U-boat codes during the war. Tom Stoppard is in discussions about writing the screenplay.

The lead singer of the Rolling Stones has teamed up with the American producer Lorne Michaels to buy an option on the book for a six-figure sum. Harris's last novel, *Fatherland*, was made into a television series, but this is being planned as a feature for cinema release.

Jagger is understood to have been the driving force behind the project, after being gripped by an advance copy of the book during the summer.

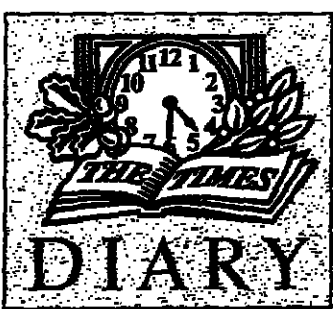
Harris will be a consultant during shooting, drawing on his exhaustive research. "I'm delighted of course, and especially

because it will be a British film made over here with a British director and cast," he says. "Because of that I hope to have more input. We are hoping we might even be able to film at Bletchley itself."

Yesterday the National Trust announced that it had bought Paul McCartney's family home, where he and John Lennon wrote



"It's worrying how much TV parents watch these days"



their first songs. But can anyone at the Trust explain the mystifying lines on the White Album track "Happiness is a Warm Gun"? The soap impression of his wife which he ate and donated to the National Trust?

Who's who?

AMID the excitement in the run-up to last night's *Panorama* interview with the Princess of Wales, the Irish managed to confuse the royal biographers. The weekend section of the Dublin-based *Irish Independent* ran on its front page a large feature by Anthony Holden. But the paper used instead the by-line Andrew Morton.

Holden was plegmatic yesterday, although his agent is said to be demanding a retraction and damages. "I don't get paid as much

as Andrew, so I am going to stick out for a higher fee," he said yesterday.

The mistake could be costly. Morton says: "I didn't notice myself writing the piece... but I am expecting the cheque."

Little list

CLAWS will be out tomorrow night at Mr Chow's restaurant in Knightsbridge, with a party to launch Tattler's Little Black Book — a list of Britain's 200 most eligible people.

The Prince of Wales's 23-year-old skiing companion Tara Palmer-Tomkinson has accepted. So has Paola Tholstrup, who separated from her husband after he enjoyed a flirtation with Tara. Friends say there is little love lost between the two models.

Last princess

THOSE WITH an eye for anniversaries will have noticed a certain poignancy about the date of the *Panorama* interview. It was 70 years to the day since the death of Queen Alexandra, the wife of Edward VII, who was herself for many years Princess of Wales.

Alix, as she was known to her family, was a great beauty, ex-



Tara: eligible

tremely popular in the country, and so imitated by society ladies that when she contracted rheumatism the "Alexandra limp" became highly fashionable.

Her marriage survived the pressures, however, because she tolerated her husband's affairs and indeed showed much kindness to his mistresses Lillie Langtry and Alice Keppel.

No sooner had Radio 4's Start the Week programme yesterday got cracking with a discussion on the paranormal than an alien voice beamed through to the producer's desk. Leonard Nimoy, alias Dr Spock, was in London; his ears had picked up during the discussion hosted by psychologist Nicholas Humphrey, so he phoned for a tape.

Dodgy joint

UNDERGRADUATES might have caught the heady whiff of cannabis while passing the Oxford Union last Wednesday evening. The washed-up former convent girl Marianne Faithfull had arrived to give a speech, and is said to have calmed her nerves with a joint.

"She had one just before speaking," confirms a corduroy-clad source who witnessed the event. "In fact, she asked a friend to roll it because her hands were shaking so much."

Faithfull's agent is surprised — although not half as surprised as some of the straight-laced union officials. "It's highly unlikely that she would have done something that silly," he says. "Although she has been known to smoke the odd spliff."



PINK AND LIGHT

Poland's turn to the left need not lead to ruin

Fifteen years ago, Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement joined battle with the ruling Communists in the shipyards of Gdansk. In 1989, it fought its way through a semi-free election to victory against General Jaruzelski's discredited regime. The brave trade union leader's steady repulsion of the party monolith marked the first victory by Eastern Europe's democrats over the Soviet-imposed order and was a heartening example to each country's anti-Communists as they sought to drive out their oppressors.

History will honour Mr Walesa, but voters are not obliged to translate such recognition into continued electoral success. Yesterday it was confirmed that Mr Walesa had narrowly lost the Polish presidency in a free and fair vote to Aleksander Kwasniewski of the Left Democratic Alliance, one of the new breed of what might be called "Communism Light" politicians surfacing in most of the former Communist countries.

There will be much bitterness in Warsaw at this development. But much of the blame lies with Mr Walesa, who proved far more efficient at demolishing the existing system than at stabilising the construction of a new one. His truculent, autocratic manner and tendency to pick fights with successive governments constrained the relationship between presidency and executive and distracted attention from the dull but necessary task of strengthening local government structures and tackling uneven economic development.

Mr Walesa fatally failed to redefine the post-Solidarity Right to accommodate its various diffuse strains and interests. Cavalier treatment of many erstwhile allies caused bitter rifts among groups who should have been able to form a coherent conservative movement. Not even the powerful influence of the Church could save him from the combined retribution of the disaffected.

With the Communists dominating the legislature, the Government and now the presidency, Poland superficially matches Mr Walesa's description of being "trapped in a red spider's web". The truth is more

mutated. Half the electorate may have shown that association with the Communist cause is not considered a barrier to power, but Mr Kwasniewski's commitment to Nato entry, membership of the European Union and acceptance of the free market's effectiveness places him closer to the centrist mainstream than Oskar Lafontaine, the turbulent new leader of Germany's Social Democrats.

With 60 per cent of Polish firms already in private hands and a population which already takes the choices, if not the challenges, of the market for granted, a return to wholesale planning and ideological restriction is unthinkable. Along with other politicians in the new breed of East German, Russian and Hungarian ex-Communists, Mr Kwasniewski is acceptable to swaths of the electorate only because he was a very small fish in the old order and has managed to divest himself of responsibility for the misery it brought.

As far as the West is concerned, Poland's new President is likely to prove a biddable partner, anxious to show that his embrace of democracy is genuine. But the shifts in public perception of Communism throughout the East, combined with the uncertain fate of democracy in Russia, add to the arguments for welcoming the Visegrad states into the European Union and towards Nato. John Major emphasised in his Guildhall speech last night that to agree on EU enlargement in principle is not enough. Next must come difficult practical decisions: the common agricultural policy must be overhauled and money found to help the newcomers to adjust to membership.

The news from Warsaw shows how right he is that there is no more urgent task before EU governments than to bind these countries into "the democratic embrace of Western Europe". But words are cheap, and Britain has been acting as though it can do nothing without Helmut Kohl — whose enthusiasm for enlargement appears to have dwindled. Here is a case for more active British diplomacy. In this matter, it is wise to leave as little as possible to chance.

CHILDREN OF THE ROAD

A small change in car policy could bring great new freedoms

When a black-and-white photograph of a 1950s street scene is juxtaposed with the same street now, the most striking difference is the absence of the motor car. Then the streets were almost always filled with children playing. Now the road belongs to the car. Even the pavements have been lost to children. A conference held by the National Children's Bureau yesterday sought ways to redress that balance.

The Automobile Association called for the Government to experiment with a 10mph speed limit on some residential streets to see whether the threat of road accidents could be reduced. Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, seemed ready to take up the challenge: "Certainly, if 20mph can be made to work I would not be averse to looking and seeing whether lower speeds still will work," he told the Play in the Streets conference.

Road traffic has nearly doubled over the past two decades and is forecast to double again by the time that today's children are parents themselves. The British accident rate for child pedestrians is 31 per cent higher than the EU average. Yet the child death rate has fallen hugely since the car was first introduced to Britain. In 1922, twice as many children were killed on the roads than now, even though there were 25 times fewer cars. This does not, however, suggest that streets have become safer. Rather, children have been withdrawn by their parents from the threat of traffic.

The threat of abduction, or "stranger

danger", exists more in the minds of parents than in reality. There will always be the occasional tragic and widely reported case of children being abducted or murdered by pervers. But the chances of this happening are minuscule; which is why when it does, it receives such extensive media coverage.

Traffic is another matter. It has hugely circumscribed children's freedom and independence. Children are no longer allowed to roam their neighbourhoods, to visit friends, to discover a world of the imagination that can be acted out free from adult supervision. Their ability to deal confidently with the outside world is much diminished. Their health suffers too; not just because the extra exhaust pollution can trigger asthma attacks, but because being ferried around in a car instead of walking or cycling has made today's children probably the least fit generation ever.

Transport planners must start to recognise that the rights of motorists to reach their destination as quickly as possible should not have domain over 100 per cent of Britain's roads. Other users have a stake too, not least children, who do not wield a vote. Their lives and the lives of their parents would be much improved if local authorities were to design safe routes to schools so that children could walk or cycle unaccompanied, and to enforce very low speed limits in selected residential areas. A small change in policy could lead to an enormous boost to children's freedom.

PENNY LANE, POUNDS FUTURE

Beatlemania can help Liverpool again

"I read the news today, oh boy," begins a fine Beatles song: anyone reading the news in recent weeks could be forgiven for thinking that the band had never broken up at all. There is a new single featuring vocals recorded by John Lennon before his murder; there is a television series claiming to be the definitive history of John, Paul, George and Ringo; and there are acres of newspaper devoted to a group which ceased to be a quarter century ago.

One of the greatest beneficiaries of this second wave of Beatlemania should be Liverpool itself, the city which spawned the Beatles. In a perfectly-timed nod to popular sentiment, the National Trust announced yesterday that it has bought Paul McCartney's home at 20, Forthlin Road. First rented by his parents in 1955, the house became an unofficial rehearsal room for the Beatles in their early years and was probably the place where many of their first hits such as *Love Me Do* came into being. Some may find it strange that the band which mocked "the blue suburban skies", clean fire engines and portraits of the Queen should be so honoured by one of Middle England's sacred institutions. Yet, as the trust says, the "music that took shape here touched the lives of millions around the world".

For Liverpool, the potential dividends of renewed interest in the band are considerable. The Beatles' records are an archive of the Liverpool vernacular and townscape. The song *In My Life* began as a description of a bus-ride from Lennon's childhood home in Menlove Avenue into Liverpool's centre;

the real Eleanor Rigby (1895-1939) was buried in a churchyard near McCartney's house; the bank, inspector, barber and fire engines of *Penny Lane* were all images from the Beatles' childhood: Strawberry Field was a Salvation Army orphan's home.

Those who market locations to business and government caution towns against trading on nostalgia. For Liverpool, the past stirs ambivalent emotions: pride in John Lennon is matched by shame over Derek Hatton. The city wants to shed its traditional image as the capital of complaint and declining industry. Under the banner of the Merseyside Partnership, Liverpool is trying to rebuild itself as a natural home for innovators, entrepreneurs and high-tech research. University students will soon account for one in ten of its inhabitants.

But Liverpool's wisest civic leaders have realised that there is no clash between Beatlemania and future shock. On the contrary: renewed interest of this kind can only be to Liverpool's benefit. In January, for instance, Paul McCartney's project, the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts — the site of the school where he and George Harrison were pupils — will open its doors to students from all over the globe. In a broader sense, the association of the group with the city is an enduring attraction to businesspeople looking for a place to live as well as to work. It is memory as well as visible progress that makes the city what it is. Yesterday's Beatles fan, after all, is today's pinstriped investor; Penny Lane may yet lead to the information superhighway.

Press, Princess and public interest

From the Director of the Press Complaints Commission

Sir, The last Chairman of the Press Council, Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, in his letter today on the forthcoming broadcast by the Princess of Wales, appears to be out of touch with developments at the Press Complaints Commission. We do not have a "sole function" to adjudicate on specific complaints. It is now within our power — but one only judiciously exercised — to take up matters of public interest in the absence of a specific complaint.

In his article in *The Mail on Sunday* yesterday, Lord Wakeham did not direct his comments to any one individual. He was inferring general principles, not just from the press's own code of practice but from the PCC's own not-insubstantial case law. It is against the code and the weight of this case law that any complaint will be judged — and it is our duty to make the interpretation of both of them as clear as possible.

Thirdly, Lord Wakeham was making a point — with which I doubt if Sir Louis could disagree — that the inalienable right to privacy is inalienable only so long as an individual seeks to keep his or her life private. It is surely axiomatic that if any of us seeks to make our life public property different rules inevitably apply to subsequent press reporting of that life.

That final proposition is quite clearly self-evident, and restatement of it does not in any way prejudice the impartial judgment of the PCC.

Yours faithfully,
MARK BOLLAND, Director,
Press Complaints Commission,
1 Salisbury Square, EC4A,
November 20.

In defence of water

From the Chairman of the Water Services Association

Sir, To claim (letter, November 17) that rising demand and leakage are putting long-term pressure on rivers and wetlands is wrong. Only 4 per cent of the rain that falls on this country is put into the public water supply.

Of course there are local abstraction problems and they are being addressed by the National Rivers Authority and the water companies.

The companies have already made their commitment to reduce leakage levels substantially over the next ten years. They have no problem with targets being made mandatory if that is what Parliament decides.

What seems to escape the attention of the critics is that water that leaks goes straight back into the water cycle. It is not a "loss" in any true sense of the word.

In the interests of accuracy, your correspondents, Ms Young of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and Mr Cooke, of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, should be aware that Ofwat has not "publicly carpeted" three water companies recently. Nor have any companies "lost their charter marks", though some have had them extended for a year.

They may, incidentally, like to provide the evidence for their contention that "opinion polls reveal huge public support for mandatory leakage targets".

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HOOD,
Chairman,
The Water Services Association
of England and Wales,
1 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
November 17.

Barristers' committee

From Mr David Van Hee

Sir, According to your item, "Totem polls" (Law, November 14), Gray's Inn is to elect a barristers' representative committee. For many years Middle Temple has had an elected hall committee to represent the views of barrister and student members of the inn to the benchers and to serve on the inn's committees.

My last duty as the outgoing chairman of the hall committee has been to help count the votes cast in a keenly fought contest between 14 candidates for ten available places.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID VAN HEE
(Chairman, Middle Temple Hall Committee 1993-95),
3 Dr Johnson's Buildings,
Temple, EC4A,
November 16.

Slightly foxed

From the Reverend Athenagoras Constantinou

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Diamonds aren't for ever", November 16) is right in stating that the word "alopecia" is beautiful but wrong about its Latin derivation.

The word is found in Sophocles and Aristotle, both in the sense of fox-mange (from the Greek word for fox, *alopek*) as well as in the sense of "baldness".

The Latin word for fox is *vulpes*.

Yours faithfully,
ATHENAGORAS
CONSTANTINOU,
St Mary's Greek Orthodox
Cathedral,
305 Camberwell New Road, SE5,
November 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Questions on MPs' pay: more, less or none at all?

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, It is not quite correct to say that "MPs were not paid at all until 1911" (report, November 14). MPs were paid in the 13th century and until the end of the 17th by the shires and boroughs which sent them to the Commons.

In the 18th and 19th centuries a parliamentary seat could produce a great income from the sort of activities which have caused the present controversy, and which were denounced during the 1911 debate, as "indirect surreptitious and corrupt".

The £400 a year agreed in 1911 was not intended to reflect the material value of the service provided but to enable people without private means to render public service and was largely the result of agitation by the Labour Party following a court decision that made illegal the trade union levy to pay for the support of Labour MPs.

The present demand for large salaries comes largely from those who do not see being a Member of Parliament as an honourable vocation to render public service but as a commercial enterprise. Some who should (and probably do) know better have been heard to speak of the "profession" of politics. Some, it would seem, use the present generous expenses to make membership of the House a family business.

All this should be discouraged by permitting people to serve for only three Parliaments. The notion that something other than ordinary ability is required to be a Member of Parliament is absurd and can be tested by looking at and harking to those presently occupying each front bench.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROY ROEBUCK,
Bell Yard Chambers,
116/118 Chancery Lane, WC2,
November 14.

From Mr Peter J. White

Sir, While I concur fully with the notion that the remuneration of Mem-

bers of Parliament should be set by an independent review body, the committee chaired by Lord Nolan is not, I suggest, appropriate for that purpose.

The Nolan committee was established to consider standards of conduct in public life and its membership reflects that task. As currently constituted the committee can hardly be described as representative of those whom MPs represent, and who pay their wages.

What is needed is a review body that reflects a broad public, not just the great and the good. Such a review body might include a nurse, a junior hospital doctor, a civil servant and a pensioner among its members.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. WHITE,
54 Mossbourne Road,
Poulton-Le-Pyde,
Lancashire,
November 14.

From Dr Rudolf Hanka

Sir, In 1983 MPs rejected recommendations of a select committee and of the Government and voted by a clear majority to automatically link from 1988 their pay to the sum received by a senior principal in the Civil Service. The result of the vote was at the time heralded as a victory for common sense which restored pay relativity between MPs and those with comparable responsibilities.

This link to a specific Civil Service grade has been maintained since 1988. In the absence of any increase in the responsibilities and duties of back-bench MPs, or for that matter, any decrease in the workload of the relevant grade in the Civil Service, what arguments can be put forward for breaking a link once welcomed by MPs as fair and fully justified?

Yours faithfully,
RUDOLF HANKA,
Wolfson College,
Cambridge,
November 15.

Game of wits

From Mr Christopher Ellis

Sir, You say that "the Government is engaged in a high-stakes game of wits with the benches opposite" ("Duck and weave", leading article, November 16). Your tone is lofty and contemptuous. But of course that is what the Government is doing: it admits it freely.

We live under a system of adversarial party politics that culminates every five years or so in a general election. It is a flawed and sometimes nasty system, but it is the best way we have found of implementing democracy, itself far from "perfect or all-wise", as Winston Churchill recognised.

Do not blame the parties for playing the system. Rather comment on the skill or otherwise with which they play it.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ELLIS,
18 Upper Old Park Lane,
Farnham, Surrey,
November 16.

European Union

From Mr John Szemerey

Sir, It is nonsense for Sir Peter Smithers (letter, November 16) to suggest that because Nigeria is in danger of breaking up, and because the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia have broken up, the European Union will not succeed.

Practically every country in the world is an amalgam or union of several previous countries or entities. This is as true of the United Kingdom as of Germany, France, Italy, the United States, China and many more. Will all these countries break up, just because Nigeria — under a military dictatorship — is having internal problems?

The lesson of the countries Sir Peter has cited is that countries created artificially, either by force or by an occupying power, and without the support of their people, are at risk.

Another lesson, that of history, is

Transport safeguards

From Mr M. E. J. Wheeler

Sir, Attention has recently focused on the hazards of airborne particulates produced largely by traffic emissions. Your report of November 9, headed "Diesel fumes" are killing thousands of people a year", stated that buses generate more particulates than lorries, vans, taxis or cars (letters, November 14).

There are pros and cons with all modes of transport and buses remain relatively efficient. Particulates are only part of vehicle emissions: one should also mention noise, habitat destruction and blight.

The Government must implement policies to integrate all modes of transport to ensure maximum efficiency and reduce damage to our health and environment.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW WHEELER,
(Environmental management consultant),
6 Westcliff, Whitstable, Kent.

Taking issue with EU

From Mr Rodney Howlett

Sir, I was shocked to hear on the radio yesterday an advertisement for the EU about a woman claiming compensation for being "bumped" off a scheduled airline flight. It ended with words to the effect, "This is the EU looking after your interests and protecting your rights within Europe and the UK".

Since when did we give the EU the right to use public funds for overtly political self-promotion? Those who object can do as I shall — tune to a different station.

Yours truly,
RODNEY HOWLETT,
Clevedon, Brays Lane, Hyde Heath, Amersham, Buckinghamshire,
November 20.

Approach to the Henge

From Lady Bowman

Sir, Before a decision is made to put the road past Stonehenge into a tunnel (report, November 10), will somebody please spare a thought for the passing motorists?

I drive frequently between Somerset and Berkshire, and the glimpse that I get of Stonehenge, far away through such journeys, never fails to rejoice my heart.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTIAN BOWMAN,
The Walled Garden,
Chamberlain Street,
Wells, Somerset,
November 13.

Pat on the back

From Mr Michael Zehse

Sir, I wept with joy when I read, in Richard Cork's review of *The British Art Show at Manchester* (November 7), that Chris O'ili "does not interfere with the brazen reality of the elephant dung he applies to his meticulously crafted paintings".

With such splendid artistic integrity Mr O'ili is surely destined to become a superstar of the cultural milieu.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ZEHSE,
80 Hordle Promenade North, SE15.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

F. M. HEYWOOD



crawl, endeavour to imitate the movements of the quarry you are pursuing. With good luck, after a day-long pursuit, you may find yourself in the midst of a chattering group, of which you may bring down one or two ere the rest, with deafening screams and the rush of an avalanche, dart away through the woods, uprooting young trees and tearing away branches in their precipitous flight. They generally fly before man, and only turn when wounded. Then they rise on two legs and rush madly at their foe; otherwise they rarely quit their four-footed attitude. I must say, however, that the only gorilla I shot personally behaved somewhat differently. He rushed at me, with lightning rapidity, before I had fired. But I believe that was to defend his retreating comrades. He was a sturdy old male, bent on repulsing the intruder, and ignorant of the danger he was incurring. The beast had burst through the bush within a few feet from me. A .350 magnum bullet struck through his lungs put an end to the old fellow's life.

Bromsgrove supporter's team of no-names the worst that money cannot buy

Weale makes coming last a first priority

Watching Bromsgrove Rovers, of the Vauxhall Conference, every week seems to have given James Weale, one of their most serious supporters, a unique insight into what makes a football player.

For Weale can, and does not hesitate to, boast of entering the team in last position amongst all 210,709 entries received for the Interactive Team Football (ITF) competition. This calamity, though, came about by no accident. Rather, he set out his stall to select the ITF team most likely to register the fewest points. His score, to be precise, is 4.

Weale is a postal worker from Bromsgrove in Worcestershire and stands faithfully on the terraces of his local team each week. When considering how to make his entry for ITF — which he entrusted to the Royal Mail — he decided that fame, and not money, was to be his target.

"I have entered several competitions like the ITF," he said, "but I have not got anywhere. So I decided to try and enter the worst team in the hope of being noticed."

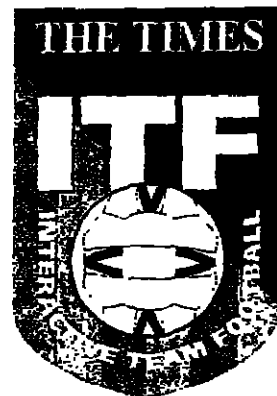
He did not stop there. He selected 11 players who, despite the £35 million limit imposed on the cost of each ITF team, could be purchased for a mere £7 million.

"I did have to make one or two difficult decisions," Weale mused, "but, basically, I set out to select the cheapest side available."

"I have never heard of most of my team, because I looked specifically for players who were never likely to get a game in the premiership because they were behind an established team member. My goalkeeper, Warner, has no chance of playing for Liverpool with David James in the team."

Weale, 23, targeted players from teams that he thought would struggle in the premiership.

"Bolton was my favourite team to pick from," he said. "I thought they were sure to struggle and the manager, Roy McFarland, was an auto-



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



matic choice in his position. I also went for Green, whoever he is, who apparently plays at full back."

Weale admits to having lost his entry form, and it came as something of a surprise to him to find that his team was doing so "well".

"I had lost touch, to be honest, though I am pleased things have worked out so badly," he said. "It would be great if my entry actually got to play Bromsgrove Rovers. Just looking at the side, my reaction is that Bromsgrove might nick it 3-1. Although the ITF players I picked were sure to score low points, they are still on the books of basically good sides."

Weale's team, The Wanabes, in full comprises: manager: R McFarland (Bolton Wanderers); goalkeeper: A Warner (Liverpool); full backs: B Small (Aston Villa), S Green (Bolton Wanderers); centre backs: J Cundy (Tottenham Hotspur), A Whitbread (West Ham United); midfielders: C Holland (Newcastle United), S Hodge (Queens Park Rangers), N Spackman (Chelsea), R Jones (Sheffield Wednesday); strikers: A Clarke (Wimbledon), O Donaldson (Sheffield Wednesday).

If, unlike Weale, you intend to improve the fortunes of your ITF side, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your score. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58p per minute.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, but also you are matching your wits against those in the know.

With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, FA Carling Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Kevin Hitchcock, of Chelsea, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £7.5 million on Ian Wright — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 756 7016. Please direct all other enquiries to 01582 488 122.



Alan Shearer, who is ranked second amongst all ITF players with 40 points, is not afraid of the physical side of the FA Carling Premiership

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED	
Goalkeeper	4pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
Full back/Central defender	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
Midfield player	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts
Striker	2pts
Appearances	1pt
Team wins	3pts
Team draws	1pt

POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt
All players	1pt
Set off	1pt
Booked	1pt
Concedes penalty	1pt
Misses penalty	1pt
Scores own goal	1pt
Team losses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
39p cheap rate, 49p other times, Rep. 58p



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

*Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times, Rep. 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 8am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday, from 8pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out: Club

Player in: Club

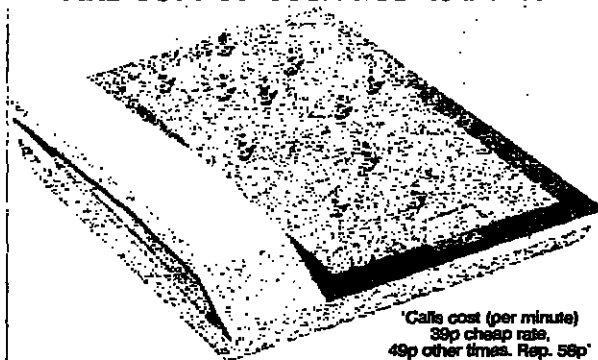
THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	IN	Club	Value
31605	R Shaw	Club	Coventry City	£1.5m
50506	T Brin	Club	Leeds United	£5.0m
Code	Player	OUT	Club	Value
50804	G Parris	Club	QPR	£0.9m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Kevin's Kickers	(Mr A. Nodson)	278
2	Jeasloes Darlings 4	(T. Vardy)	251
3	Physic T V	(Mr D. Patel)	249
4	Nigels Right Foot	(S. Brewer)	246
5	Stevens Lions 5	(P. Dillworth)	246
6	Twilight United	(J. Hurd)	245
7	Bassett's Bouncers	(R. Jenkinson)	244
8	Madrid Knights	(M. Jones)	244
9	Jones Boys Six	(Mr B. Gohil)	242
10	Gohils Gods 65	(A. Hancock)	242
11	Al's Alconers	(L. Wilson)	242
12	Long Live The Queen	(Mr D. Crowe)	241
13	Belfast Rangers	(Mr P. Johnson)	241
14	They're Here	(R. Pater)	241
15	OHME	(Mr P. Johnson)	241
16	Rosales Supers	(P. Sutton)	241
17	Rosedale Rangers	(Mr D. Green)	241
18	London's Longshots	(C. Loxtion)	240
19	Tommy Goodies XI	(Mr P. Johnson)	240
20	Mean Machine	(R. Pater)	240
21	Barnet FC	(Mr P. Johnson)	239
22	Teddy Five	(Mr B. Bear)	238
23	The Young Guns	(S. Shepherd)	237
24	Stevens Lions 7	(S. Brewer)	237
25	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P. Johnson)	236
26	Wolves Of Ferie	(S. Adams)	236
27	Transporter	(A. Jenkinson)	236
28	It's All Over	(D. Welbourne)	235
29	Formby Flyers	(A. Norton)	235
30	Gary's Heroes	(S. Parris)	235
31	Playboy and Smith	(R. Booth)	234
32	The Premier Raiders 1	(Miss C. Eila)	234
33	Perova Progress	(M. Persch)	233
34	Noddies Bears	(S. Cozens)	233
35	Goal Diggers	(C. Stacey)	232
36	No Defence OK	(J. Portwood)	232
37	The U K Beavers	(J. Ekins)	231
38	Strife F C	(A. Koutsoudis)	231
39	Fergie's Fury	(P. Simpson)	231
40	Tyos Blue Noses	(Mr S. Tye)	231
41	Russell I	(D. Shuter)	230
42	PSV Betamix	(L.A. McCole)	230
43	Glow In The Dark	(J. Smith)	230
44	FC Wombles	(A. Williams)	230
45	M I Blues	(P. Harden)	230
46	Parsons	(E. Donald)	230
47	Bellies Reserves	(Mr M. Wask)	229
48	Brookborough	(G. Brooks)	229
49	Here We Go	(Mr S. Smith)	229
50	Fair Fair Fleeter	(C. Woodward)	229
51	Walling Warriors	(P. Shanks)	229
52	Beardsleys Hair	(Mr P. Johnson)	229
53	Not Got A Chance	(M. Clark)	229
54	Rumwell United	(R. Barham)	229
55	Grove Rovers	(T. Townsend)	229
56	Fudge's Fudgers	(J. Abu Hejeh)	229
57	The Black Knights	(P. Green)	228
58	Good Times United	(Mr T. Stablesford)	228
59	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K. Booth)	228
60	Henry Hilda	(Mr T. Thompson)	228
61	Malcolm Hair X I	(C. Wilcox)	228
62	Becky's Babes	(D. Ready)	228
63	Edrops United	(R. Edmondson)	228
64	Jeastond 1860	(S. Murray)	228
65	Sunderland Stars	(K. Brown)	228
66	Forman's Finest	(A. Forman)	227
67	Francis Caldwell FC	(P. Caldwell)	227
68	The Cake Eaters	(Mr S. Hughes)	227
69	The Masked Tumpis	(Mr D. Wardy)	227

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times, Rep. 58p

Call the ITF checkline on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today

67	Overhill Rovers	(Mr M. James)	227
68	Len's Ud	(J. Laine)	227
69	Taylor Cooks	(J. Taylor)	227
70	Soal Ud	(S. Scollick)	227
71	Mac United	(T. McCusker)	227
72	Armach	(A. Mathewson)	227
73	The Subjugators	(M. Ayres)	227
74	Power House	(A. James)	227
75	Alastair	(Mr W. Davisworth)	226
76	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D. Conroy)	226
77	Newcastle Browns II	(S. MacLennan)	226
78	Oh Nicky Evans	(Mr P. Johnson)	226
79	The Conjurars	(Mr D. Farmer)	226
80	Dicks Dudes	(R. Mitton)	226
81	Mercer's Men	(D. Bowford)	226
82	Harrington Inter	(Mr D. Lovell)	226
83	Golden Boots	(A. Marshall)	226
84	KBT Ud	(R. Paterson)	226
85	Nebudars	(C. Mitchell)	226
86	Mad XI	(D. Rodgers)	226
87	Weldons Wanderers FC	(S. Lee)	226
88	Robbo's Army	(P. Callaghan)	226
89	Walsham AFC	(Mr D. Walsh)	226
90	Inbetweeners	(Mr A. Sikora)	226
91	Papadopoulos City	(A. Papadopoulos)	226
92	Barnet Buy Cole	(Mr P. Johnson)	226
93	Washley Wanderers	(S. Whalley)	226
94	Brown Montage	(P. Etridge)	226
95	Moneybags United	(C. Lang)	226
96	Warwick Mistla	(S. Taylor)	226
97	Wayles Blues	(N. Emmerson)	226
98	Alan Sugars Huge Ego	(T. Martin)	226
99	Martinez 5	(G. Fallowfield)	226
100	Dirty Doggers	(S. Harris)	226
101	No Hoppers	(Mr P. Gregoriou)	226
102	Lemonies	(S. Harris)	226
103	Whereas Botham	(Mr P. Johnson)	226
104	Monster Monster	(M. Parlin)	226
105	Bohannon Forest	(S. Bunn)	226
106	Howies Heroes	(Mr H. West)	226
107	The McMenenys	(I. Broadbent)	226
108	The Cutting Edge	(Mr A. Weston)	226

105	Adams' Sneakers	(M Sladden)	223
105	Incats	(S Daly)	223
105	MGM	(M Morgan)	223
105	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	223
105	Jones Boys Four	(L Jones)	223
105	Al Jout Fox	(Mr J Reader)	223
119	Highbury Ud	(E Fryce)	222
119	Fleary Frogs?	(J Nield)	222
119	Champions 1995-96	(S McGill)	222
119	Jims XI	(J Hayes)	222
119	Wallace Wanderers	(M Haugh)	222
119	—	(P Hanna)	222
119	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	222
119	Rodcar	(G Thompson)	222
119	G Force	(M Gayle)	222
119	No Fear Ud	(G Saunders)	222
119	SCUD 4	(P Hymas)	222
119	Nell's Noddies	(Mr B O'Sullivan)	222
131	Synthetic Dozen	(Mr J Donaldson)	221
131	Andy's Athletics	(A Howes)	221
131	Daniel James Ud	(S Reynolds)	221
131	Oh There It Is I	(P Jones)	221
131	Disaster Area	(S Pottage)	221
131	Dreamer Fifth	(Mr G Wesson)	221
131	Jaynes Jugs	(K Hughes)	221
131	Rovers FC	(D Summerhill)	221
131	Nirvana F C	(Mr J Donovan)	221
140	Play in a Pool	(Mr J Waters)	221
140	Razor's Raiders	(R Knowles)	220
140	Score A Bundle	(S Billingham)	220
140	Edith My Lovely	(Mr P Johnson)	220
140	Twinkdotee Two	(J Brown)	220
140	Lucas Rovers 3	(N Butler)	220
140	Scores Lions 6	(S Brewer)	220
140	Silkdown Rovers	(S Cowan)	220
140	Waters Wanderers	(Waters Wanderers)	220
140	Gales Champions	(M Gale)	220
150	Tiggers Two	(L Lindstrom)	219
150	Gohills Gods 62	(Mr B Gohill)	219
150	The Celts	(P O'Connor)	219
150	Terry's Tigers	(M Greenall)	219
150	Old Gills	(Mr P Johnson)	219
150	Westhills United	(A McConnell)	219
150	The Talent	(S Cole)	218
150	Nighty Men 1	(C Marshall)	219
150	View Forth	(Mr J Taylor)	219
150	Laytons Lions	(Mr R Layton)	219
150	Dicks Delight	(Mrs G Jernison)	219
150	Danmarkins	(Mr V Gilford)	219
150	ADG Sign Shearer	(Mr P Johnson)	218
150	Donnas Doughnuts	(D Burt)	219
150	The Doug Hatches	(M Steacy)	219
150	Richies Rovers	(R Lovell)	218
150	Novocastrians	(E Donald)	219
150	Hall Ud	(T Hall)	218
150	Than United	(N Giddings)	219
150	Carra's Hotshots	(C Carmese)	219
150	The Others	(O Millar)	219
150	Bora in Tashkent	(Mr D McMahon)	219
172	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	218
172	The Jaldies	(M Adams)	218
172	Good Work Fellas	(J Cook)	218
172	St St Maximian United	(S Morris)	218
172	Icecream and Rhubarb	(P Payne)	218
172	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	218
172	Doogs	(R Booth)	218
172	Norfolk N Good	(D Givner)	218
172	Goats 'N' U	(D Slapinsecorn)	218
172	Bretts Boulders	(Mrs B Brett)	218
182	Gohills Gods 35	(Mr R Gohill)	217

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Overall
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+5 -16
10102	R Mirams	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 -1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+1 +2
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-13 -15
10401	D James	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 0
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	3.50	-3 +9
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	0.25	0 +5
10502	M Beensy	Leeds United	0.75	0 0
10601	P Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00	0 0
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0 0
10603	S Hisslop	Newcastle United	3.00	-1 +10
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1 -22
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0 0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0 -7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0 0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-1 -12
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0 0
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	+5 -23
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0 0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-7 -19
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	-1 +6
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	0 0
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-3 +25
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0 0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1 +1
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0 0
11401	L Milkosko	West Ham United	2.50	+5 -4
11402	L Sealley	West Ham United	0.50	0 0
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-1 -5
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0 0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-1 -1
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0 0
11603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50	0 -28
11701	A Coton	Manchester City	2.50	0 0
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0 0
11703	E Immel	Manchester City	2.00	-1 -19
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	-1 +13
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0 0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0 +3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	+5 +24
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-5 -35
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0 0

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Overall
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+4 +2
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	+7 +3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+4 +5
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	+1 +5
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0 +6
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0 +1
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	0 +5
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	-8 +8
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-8 +5
20303	A-I Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	-7 -7
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	-1 +13
20402	S-I Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	0 0
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	-1 +16
20501	A Dorigo	Leeds United	3.50	+4 +10
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+3 +9
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0 -1
20504	K Sharp	Leeds United	0.50	0 0
20601	J Bessford	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +19
20602	M Hottridge	Newcastle United	3.00	0 0
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +18
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0 -7
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0 -3
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0 -1
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0 0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0 -4
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0 -5
20802	R Brewitt	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0 -4
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0 -1
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	0 +2
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	+3 -8
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	+4 -9
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	-3 +3
21002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	-3 -2
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0 +1
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0 +3
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0 +3
21103	G Hall	Chelsea	0.50	0 +4
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	0 +9
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	-5 -5
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	+1 +1
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	-2 +22
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	-1 +23
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0 0
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0 +12
21303	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0 +7
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	0 +4
21402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	0 -2
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0 0
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	+3 +6
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	+10 +0
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0 +4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0 +4
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0 -2
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0 0
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	0 -2
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0 0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	1.50	0 -5
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	0.75	0 0
21703	D Brightwell	Manchester City	0.75	0 -1
21704	J Foster	Aston Villa	2.50	0 +19
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	4.50	0 +4
21802	S Stanton	Aston Villa	2.50	0 +18
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	0.50	0 0
21804	K King	Aston Villa	0.50	0 0
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0 0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 0
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	+4 +24
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4 +23
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0 0
22001	G Bergeson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2 -11
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	-1 -12
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1 -12
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1 +1
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1 +1

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Overall
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	+4 +5
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0 +3
30103	N Markar	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 0
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0 0
30201	G Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	0 +11
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0 +14
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0 0
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	-2 +10
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-5 +1
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	-1 +15
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	0 +18
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	-2 -3
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	-1 +14
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.50	+4 +16
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.00	+4 +12
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	1.50	0 -1
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.00	0 +1
30504	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.50	+4 +4
30505	R Jobson	Leeds United	4.00	0 +3
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +22
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +19
30603	D Pascoe	Newcastle United	2.50	-1 -5
30701	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0 -3
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0 -1
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0 0
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0



Kevin Hitchcock surveyed the choices for his ITF team with the same care that he takes as a goalkeeper for Chelsea

Value lies with strikers

PICKING my team took me a while. I started off by spending the largest amount of money on the strikers, because it is in this area that the real value in Interactive Team Football (ITF) must be found. From there, the goalkeeper came next, then the defenders, and whatever money I had left went on the midfield. The team needed a lot of changes before I felt happy.

So far, I have not got involved in the transfer system. I picked my side and that was that, but I thought I would be doing a bit better than I am, so I think I will have to start thinking about new players. Certainly, this season, the star men are emerging. Tony Yeboah has made a great start with his spectacular goals and, when we played Blackburn, I was very impressed with Lars Bohinen; he is a real quality player. From week to week, Jamie Redknapp and Nicky Barnby keep turning in good performances.

The main buy was Ian Wright at £7.5 million. Finding a forward who is going to score goals is the most important thing. The fact that my midfield players are doing well is a bonus, but, having said that, I knew Ian Bishop was a good buy. He cost only £1.5 million, but I know him and I know how West Ham revolve around his play.

At the start of the season, I would have picked a few of our players at Chelsea if

Kevin Hitchcock, of Chelsea, explains his ITF selection

the rules of ITF had let me. I am not so sure now, but you have to say that Ruud Gullit and Mark Hughes were the bargains of the season — in the real world, at least.

Ruud has settled in well at Chelsea and he is a great asset to the team. You cannot help but learn from the way he plays.

I am disappointed with my defence and I think they will be the first to go when I start dabbling in the transfer market. I have Craig Short and Colin Calderwood as centre backs and I think I

HITCHCOCK'S TEAM

Goalkeeper: M Crossley (Notts Forest) £2.5m
Full backs: D Bardsley (QPR) £2m
C Wilson (Tottenham H) £2.5m
Centre backs: C Caldwell (Tottenham H) £2.5m
Midfielders: I Bishop (West Ham) £1.5m
R Earle (Wimbledon) £2.5m
J Moncur (Aston Villa) £1m
Strikers: J Wright (Aston Villa) £7.5m
D Dublin (Coventry) £4.5m
Manager: G Hoddle (Chelsea) £2.5m

will trade them in for Pearson and Vickers from Middlesbrough. As a team, they are very defence-minded and they have not given many goals away. The two centre backs are only £750,000 each, so I may just go for one of them and a bigger name to score some points.

Crossley, of Nottingham Forest, has been a bit of a disappointment. The team are doing well but he has not earned points. I do not want to go for David Seaman because, although he is doing so well, he is very expensive at £5 million and to buy him would mean changing my forward line. When you start thinking about changing players, it all gets complicated.

I had to pick Glenn Hoddle as my manager, which is fine, but it is not such a good thing when you look at the price of him. The managers seem to cost a lot and not do very much.

The transfer market is going crazy. Someone, somewhere has to draw a line and stop the huge prices. The way things are going, we will end up like Scotland, where you have two teams — Celtic and Rangers — with no one else able to keep up with their spending power.

Still, I think it is time to start spending again. Now, if I go for only one of the Middlesbrough defenders, maybe I could afford Colin Cooper at Nottingham Forest.

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Overall
41404	M Allen	West Ham United	2.00	0 +4
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+4 +17
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0 0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	0 +11
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0 +2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+2 +7
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	0 +10
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0 +3
41503	A Linpar	Everton	2.50	+1 +15
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	0 +8
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0 +5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	0 +15
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0 +2
41509	A Kanchevski	Everton	6.00	+5 +14
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0 +1
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+1 +11
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0 +1
41605	L Jenkinson	Coventry City	0.75	0 0
41606	J Darby	Coventry City	0.75	0 0
41607	P Teller	Coventry City	1.50	+1 +15
41608	Leslie	Coventry City	3.00	+1 +8
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0 0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0 +14
41701	G Filcroft	Manchester City	2.50	+1 +6
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0 +3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+3 +12
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	0 +3
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	+1 +12
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	0 +13
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	0 +11
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	+1 +21
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0 +17
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0 0
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+1 +22
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 +25
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0 0
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 0
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 +14
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	+2 +16
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 0
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	2.50	+2 +2
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1 +6
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0 +12
42004	R Sneekes	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1 +5
42005	M Patterson	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2 +6
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0 0

Code	Name	Team	Wk	Overall
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+7 +40
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0 +6
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+3 +10
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +1
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+1 +7
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+3 +14
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0 +8
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	+3 +25
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	0 +21
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 +5
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	+1 +19
50304	G Bull	Nottingham Forest	0.85	0 0
50305	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0 0
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+3 +33
50402	S Coffey	Liverpool	7.50	0 +9
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	+1 +15
50501	A Yeobah	Leeds United	7.50	+3 +31
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+1 +12
50503	P Winstone	Leeds United	1.50	0 +1
50504	N Whelan	Leeds United	1.50	0 +2
50505	J Forrester	Leeds United	0.50	0 0
50506	T Brofin	Leeds United	5.00	0 0
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+3 +41
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	0 +16
50603	P Kitson	Newcastle United	2.50	0 +2
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0 0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0 0
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+3 +31
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+3 +15
50703	R Rosenfield	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+1 +14
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	+1 +7
50802	B Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0 +1
50803	D Dichio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1 +19
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0 0
50801	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	+1 +15
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0 +7
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	0 +4
50904	G Gillespie	Wimbledon	0.85	0 0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.85	0 +2
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	0 +7
51001	M Le Tissier	Southampton	6.00	0 +13
51002	J Shipperley	Southampton	2.00	+3 +0
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	+1 +12
51004	C Meskell	Southampton	0.85	0 0
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+1 +19
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	+1 +6
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	0 +4
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	0 +3
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	+2 +21
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+2 +21
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	+1 +1
51204	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	1.50	0 0
51206	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.85	0 0
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	+3 +11
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0 +2
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +4
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 +3
51305	M Odeyeye	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1 +10
51401	A Coffee	West Ham United	4.50	+3 +16
51403	B Rogers	West Ham United	2.00	0 -3
51404	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.85	+1 +1
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	2.00	+1 +1
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00	+1 +1
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	+1 +19
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	+1 +10
51505	S Barlow	Everton	0.85	0 0
51601	D Dublin	Cowentry City	4.50	+3 +17
51602	P Ndlovu	Cowentry City	4.00	+1 +12
51605	N Lamptey	Cowentry City	1.00	0 +3
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	+1 +15
51702	N Gulin	Manchester City	4.00	+1 +5
51705	G Creaney	Manchester City	2.50	0 +3
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00	+1 +21
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	3.00	+1 +23
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	+3 +6
51901	J Ford	Middlesbrough	5.00	+1 +15
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 +1
51903	P Wicks	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 0
51904	N Barmby	Middlesbrough	4.00	+1 +17
52001	J McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0 +12
52003	M Paatelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.85	0 +6
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.85	0 +14

NEWS

Princess loses her press chief

■ The Princess of Wales is to lose her Buckingham Palace press secretary as a direct result of her *Panorama* interview shown on BBC television last night.

Geoffrey Crawford, deputy press secretary to the Queen, will withdraw his services to the Princess after her working visit to Argentina later this week, and will concentrate on working for other members of the Royal Family. Page 1

More private funding for roads

■ Substantial cuts in the Government's £2 billion road-building programme to pay for tax cuts were signalled when John Major promised a prolonged campaign to reduce public spending to nearer the levels of Japan and America. He appeared to confirm speculation of a shift away from public to private financing of transport projects. Page 1

Examination tables

Islington, the London borough whose schools were shunned by Tony Blair, finishes bottom of the league tables. Page 1

Bosnia deadline

The American Government marshalled its full diplomatic force to try to seal a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the warring parties failed to meet a planned deadline for peace. Pages 1, 14

Pressure on Dublin

John Major increased the pressure on Dublin for an early summit as London officials called for a display of "courage and imagination" to kickstart the peace process. Page 2

Lottery grants

The National Lottery Charities Board awarded grants of more than £35 million to 548 charities and expressed confidence that it had diffused the controversy that surrounded its first round of grant-giving. Page 2

'Lifer' cleared

Lawyers acting for a man who was cleared of murder after serving seven years of a life sentence are to seek compensation from the Home Office. Page 3

Sentencing warning

The Lord Chancellor joined forces with other senior judges in warning about the problems posed by Michael Howard's proposed new tough sentencing regime. Page 4

National Trust buys Beatles' No 20

■ A terraced house where Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison first played together was bought by the National Trust. The three-up, three-down former council house at 20 Forthlin Road in Allerton, Liverpool, was where McCartney had his friends around to practise and write songs such as the Beatles' first single, *Love Me Do*. Page 5

Asylum plan

Two million people a year will have to produce their passports or identity documents when they apply for jobs under plans to curb asylum-seekers. Page 4

Hospital hold-up

A corrosive condition that attacks copper piping is threatening to cause costly delays to Britain's largest and most sophisticated outpatient centre. Page 6

Brown's tax promise

Gordon Brown committed Labour to an income tax starting rate of 10p in the pound amid renewed political infighting over reform of the £85 billion social security budget. Page 9

Nigeria sanctions

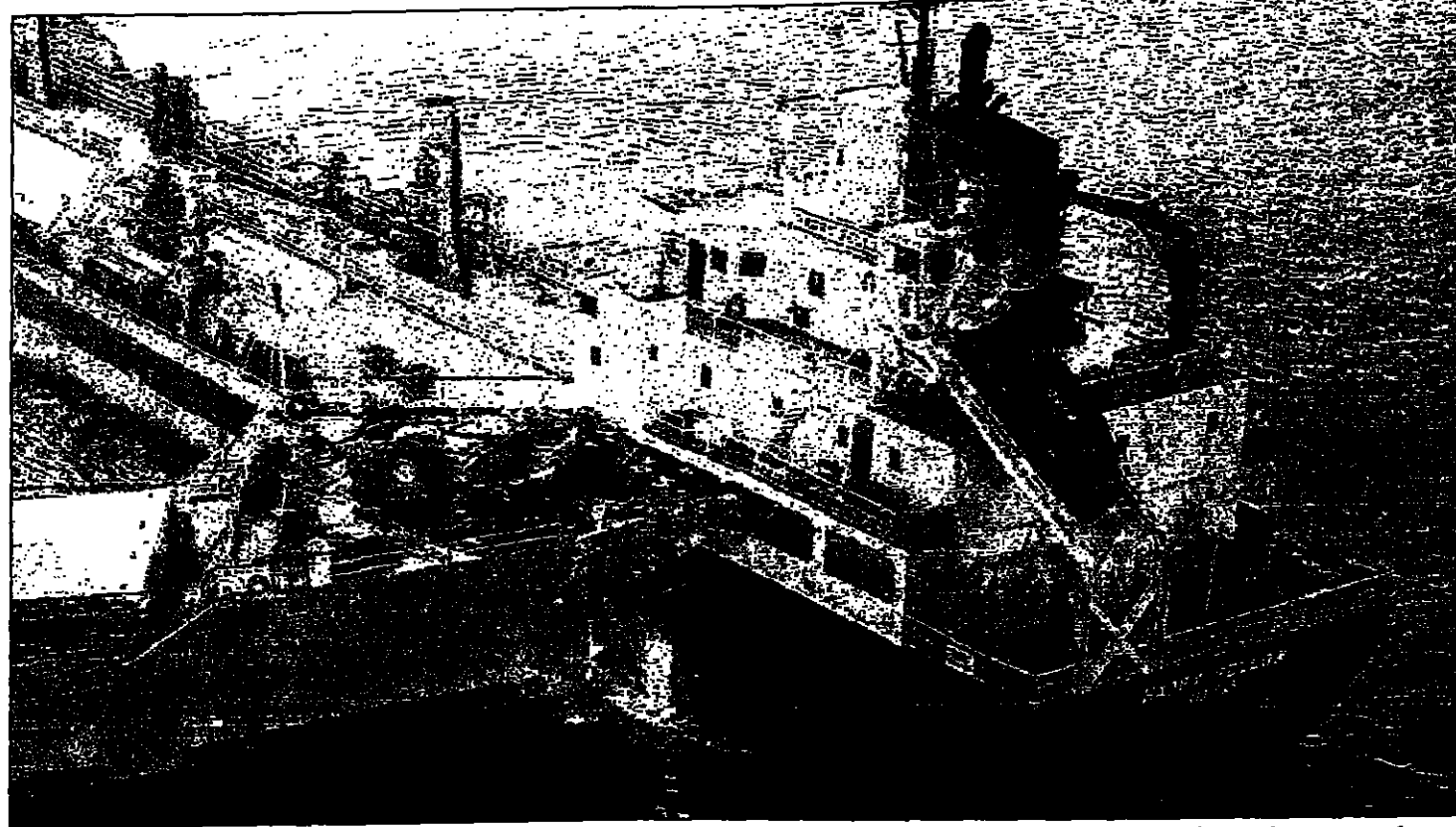
The European Union agreed to enforce an arms embargo and other sanctions against Nigeria to punish it for abusing human rights. Page 10

France in dock

France ensured itself fresh ill-will among its European Union partners when it threw diplomatic caution to the winds and denounced a majority of them as hypocrites. Page 11

Poland drops Walesa

In the presidential elections Poland has dismissed Lech Walesa, the hero of the Solidarity revolution, and replaced him with former Communist politician Aleksander Kwasniewski. Page 13



The Cypriot cargo ship *Happy Fellow* from Manila after a collision off Honfleur yesterday

BUSINESS

Home loans: Calls for Budget measures to help the housing market have intensified after net mortgage advances fell to their lowest monthly level since the Tories came to power in 1979. Page 25

Growth: The economy would not have grown in the third quarter if there had not been a huge build up of stocks, a sign that growth could deteriorate more. Page 25

Rexam: Shares took another tumble after the packaging giant, formerly Bowater, issued its second profits warning. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 was up 19.6 to close at a record high of 3,628.8. Sterling's dipped from 82.3 to 82.2 after a fall from \$1.516 to \$1.546 and a rise from DM2.1794 to DM2.1834. Page 28

SPORT

Motor rallying: Colin McRae was 35sec behind Carlos Sainz, his Subaru team-mate and rival for the world championship, after the second day of the RAC Rally. Page 48

Football: If Nottingham Forest are to progress as England's lone standard-bearer in Europe, their patience will need exercising to the full in their UEFA Cup tie against Lyons. Page 44

Rugby union: The Rugby Football Union has set aside nearly £15 million for the payment of the England management team as well as 50 of the best players. Page 45

Cricket: No play was possible on the final day of the first Test between South Africa and England in Pretoria after rain fell for the fourth successive day. Page 48

ARTS

Lyric triumphs: London and Paris are enjoying major operatic successes. At Covent Garden the young Argentinian tenor José Cura confirmed his golden potential, while the Théâtre de Châtelet unveiled a production of Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron*. Page 34

Bourgeois tendencies: Feted as one of the world's foremost sculptors, the 84-year-old Louise Bourgeois is only now receiving her first British retrospective. Page 35

Huddersfield premieres: Britain's top new-music festival has swung into action with an impressive programme of premieres. Page 34

MacCaig honoured: Literary figures will gather in Edinburgh to celebrate the 85th birthday of the poet Norman MacCaig. Page 36

FEATURES

Yesterday's men: Giles Coren finds out what the pundits think of the first new Beatles single for 25 years, and David Sinclair gives a rock critic's verdict. Page 17

Royal recovery: Rosemary Righter writes from experience about the Queen Mother's hip replacement operation and the process of rehabilitation afterwards. Page 16

LAW

Breaking up: Despite protests from the Right about family values, the planned changes to the divorce rules deserve a fair hearing, says Chris Barton. Page 39

EDUCATION

Section Three: A full list of the school league tables

THE PAPERS

The President seems to have developed a corollary to Abe Lincoln's famous dictum. The new White House version appears to be: "It is possible to fool enough of the people all of the time." — *Washington Times*

Every once in a while Congress surprises its critics - and perhaps itself - by doing the right thing. The House, albeit reluctantly, moved to deal with its soiled image of taking favours from lobbyists. By a 422-6 vote it significantly tightened rules on acceptance of gifts — *USA Today*

Preview: Man's cruelty to animals is provocatively explored in *Network First* (ITV, 10.40pm) Review: Matthew Bond finds the story of the Earth-wrecking asteroid as compelling as ever. Page 47

Pink and light

Poland's new President is likely to prove a biddable partner for the West, anxious to show that his embrace of democracy is genuine. Page 19

Children of the road

Transport planners must start to recognise that the rights of motorists to reach their destination as quickly as possible should not have domain over 100 per cent of Britain's roads. Other users have a stake too, not least children, who do not wield a vote. Page 19

Beatlemania

Liverpool's wisest civic leaders have realised that there is no clash between Beatlemania and future shock. On the contrary: renewed interest of this kind can only be to Liverpool's benefit. Page 19

LIBBY PURVES

The days of shovelling unwanted and embarrassing womenfolk into secure convents are long gone, one suspects to the regret of "friends of Charles", who clearly yearn for the grille-and-wimple option whenever they see the Princess. Page 19

WOODROW WYATT

Mr Blair has bravely torn some barnacles off "old" Labour's face, but it is still dominated by the instinct of envy and leveling, and the ineradicable belief that "the gentleman in Whitehall knows best". Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

The inherent problem is that the public still does not believe that Labour would, as Mr Brown claims, be "the party of wise spenders not big spenders". Page 9

John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric, Rear-Admiral John Lee-Barber, wartime destroyer captain; F.M. Heywood, Master of Marlborough College; James McAdam Clark, diplomat. Page 21

Princess and the press: MPs pay; European union; photographers and church weddings. Page 19

TOMORROW

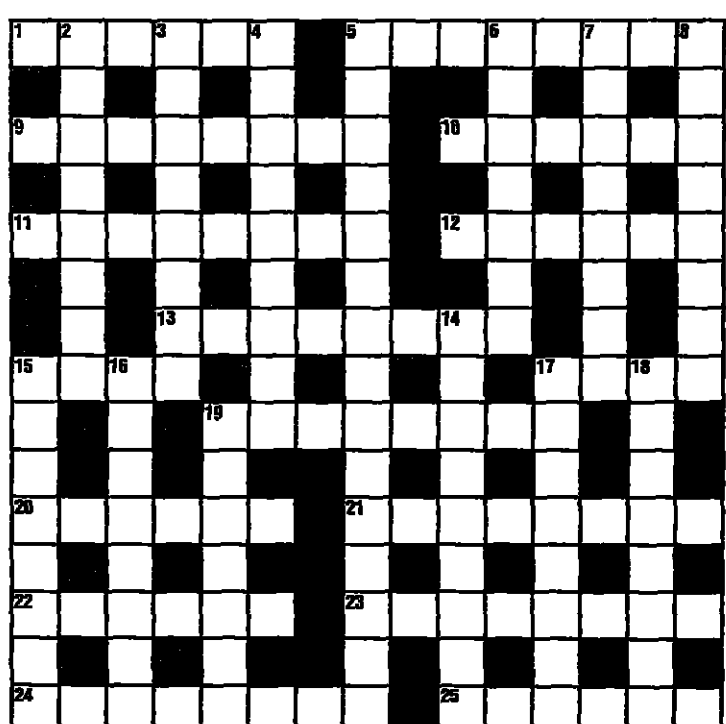
IN THE TIMES

■ BEAUTY
The leather look becomes one for the softies in fashion

■ THE BEAST
Interface dreams of gifts for a wired Christmas



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,018



- ACROSS**
- Spend unlimited time in various places (6).
 - Bend on track that's helpful to travellers (4,4).
 - The sort of story to generate suspicion about old horse? (8).
 - An ability to snatch one point away (6).
 - Doctor given note about therapy, primarily as illustration (8).
 - Bis and bobs found on train (6).
 - Humanity in agreement (8).
 - Key section of tennis lesson (4).
 - Boss buttonholed when dressing (4).
 - A foreign fruit-tree succeeds in swamp (8).
 - Consumed in litres, unknown not long ago (6).
 - Traitor left on island - that's sensible (8).

- DOWN**
- Bandman in the cavalry once? (6).
 - Exaggerated but remaining comme il faut (8).
 - Left with part-time troops, is soldier showing charm? (8).
 - Harsh words produced by one caught in traffic (6).
 - The first to be put inside as infidels (8).
 - African danseuse whirling about (8).
 - American militiaman's missile (9).
 - Naturally fitted for role like Hamlet (2,3,6,4).
 - It barely can be moved without a licence (7).
 - Ladies affected with it could become romantic (8).
 - Had no time for questions going into action (8).
 - Earthquake thought to be genuine (9).
 - Unqualified rascal, not banned (8).
 - Tail trio unwinding on the beach (8).
 - One who supports monarch at present (8).
 - Disheartened and abandoned (8).
 - Point supporting malicious complaint (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,017

SHAMBLD ASSIST
T R A B A H N E
A C T O R B E D R I D D E N
N E R T O P I A
D A M N A T I O N Y E A R N
A T I D I A T
R I S S O L E S C A P E
O I V D R A
T A L E N T I N S P E C T
P A M P S R E C O N D I T E
I N D I A N O V E R
E E N N S S
R E S I D E D E T E S T E R

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
North-Surrey, Sussex	702
Don't, Paris, & IOW	703
Don't, Paris, & IOW	704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Somerset	705
Berk, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bed, Herts & Essex	707
North, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Stroud, Hereks & Wales	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Ches, Lanc & Croyd	715
N.W. England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N.E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lowland & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Northwest, N.E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Galles, Orkney & Shetland	726
N. Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

AA-ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0305 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Hants	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	733
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Guernsey, Jersey & Shetland	746
N. Ireland	747

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Portland, Dorset, 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Stranraer, Tyrone, 0C (32F); highest night temp: Kilmory, Moray Firth, 0.1C (32.2F); highest sunrise temp: Clacton, Essex, 5.2C.

FLIGHT SAVERS

Alps	18 51 s	Corfu	13 55 s	Madrid	15 59 s	Riyadh	27 51 s
Alexandria	17 55 s	Cyprus	1 34 s	Malaga	21 70 s	Rome	13 55 s
Athens	20 08 s	Dublin	9 48 s	Malta	23 73 s	S. France	13 55 s
Bahamas	24 75 s	Durham	10 50 s	Manila	14 57 s	Salzburg	0 32 c
Bangkok	14 57 s	Edinburgh	22 72 s	Melbourne	18 51 s	Santiago	28 84 s
Beirut	11 52 s	Florence	9 48 s	Mexico C	X	Seoul	6 43 s
Bombay	22 72 s	Frankfurt	8 43 s	Miami	27 51 s	Singapore	32 50 s
Buenos Aires	25 77 s	Geneva	8 48 s	Montreal	1 30 s	Stockholm	6 43 s
Calcutta	33 51 s	Heidelberg	22 72 s	Moscow	3 27 s	Sydney	18 51 s
Cardiff	29 84 s	Helsinki	22 72 s	Munich	1 34 s	Taipei	28 77 s
Chennai	24 75 s	Hong Kong	24 75 s	Nairobi	1 30 s	Tokyo	28 77 s
Cairo	4 30 s	Jakarta	1 30 s	Norfolk	8 48 s	Toronto	28 84 s
Canberra	21 70 s	Johannesburg	33 51 s	Osaka	1 30 s	Vancouver	12 54 s
Cebu	13 55 s	La Paz	13 55 s	Paris	15 59 s	Warsaw	22 72 s
Colombo	8 48 s	La Rochelle	9 48 s	Perth	10 50 s	Wellington	9 48 s
Copenhagen	9 48 s	Lisbon	17 59 s	Peking	20 08 s	Winnipeg	2 36 s
Dakar	3 37 c	Luxembourg	18 59 s	Prague	1 30 s	X	X
Dallas	26 79 s	London	6 43 s	Rangoon	2 36 s	X	X
Dhaka	7 45 s	Lyon	15 59 s	Riga	1 30 s	X	X
Dublin	27 51 s	Madrid	15 59 s	Rio de Janeiro	28 77 s	X	X
Edinburgh	9 48 s	Manila	14 57 s	X	X	X	X
Geneva	8 48 s	Mexico C	X	X	X	X	X
Helsinki	22 72 s	Moscow	3 27 s	X	X	X	X
Hong Kong	24 75 s	Munich	1 34 s	X	X	X	X
Jakarta	1 30 s	Nairobi	1 30 s	X	X	X	X
Johannesburg	33 51 s	Osaka	1 30 s	X	X	X	X
La Paz	13 55 s	Paris	15 59 s	X	X	X	X
La Rochelle	9 48 s	Perth	10 50 s	X	X	X	X
Lisbon	17 59 s	Peking	20 08 s	X	X	X	X
Luxembourg	18 59 s	Prague	1 30 s	X	X	X	X
London	6 43 s	Rangoon	2 36 s	X	X	X	X
Lyon	15 59 s	Riga	1 30 s	X	X	X	X
Madrid	15 59 s	Rio de Janeiro	28 77 s	X	X	X	X
Manila	14 57 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mexico C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Miami	27 51 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montreal	1 30 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Moscow	3 27 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Munich	1 34 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nairobi	1 30 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Norfolk	8 48 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Osaka	1 30 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paris	15 59 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Perth	10 50 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peking	20 08 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prague	1 30 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rangoon	2 36 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Riga	1 30 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rio de Janeiro	28 77 s	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

FORECAST

■ General: England and Wales will have a cloudy and wet start in many places with rain quickly spreading eastwards to all parts. Brighter weather will follow into Wales, the West Country and the Midlands during the afternoon, with scattered showers developing along western coasts.

■ Scotland and Northern Ireland will have rain at times but sunny spells will develop over Northern Ireland during the morning. The rain will later be confined to the far north with showers widespread in the west.

■ London, S.E. England, E. Anglia, E. England, Aberdeen: mainly dry start, rain later. Dry by dusk. Wind southeasterly, fresh to strong. Mild. Max temp 11C (52F).

■ Central S. England, E. Midlands, W. Midlands, N.W. England, Central N. England, N.E. England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: cloudy with rain at times, becoming brighter in the afternoon. Dry after dark. Wind southerly, moderate. Max temp 11C (52F).

■ Channel Isles, S.W. England, S. Wales, N. Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: rain clearing, then sunshine and showers. Wind southerly, fresh to strong becoming southwesterly, moderate. Max temp 12C (54F).

■ S.W. Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N.W. Scotland: cloudy with rain at times, showers and bright spells later. Showers more widespread by mid-night. Wind southerly, gentle to moderate. Max temp 10C (50F).

■ N.E. Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with rain at times. Mainly dry by midnight. Wind southerly, strong to near gale. Max temp 9C (48F).

■ N. Ireland: bright spells, showers, heavier later. Wind southerly, moderate. Mild. Max temp 12C (54F).

■ Outlook: showers continue, heavy at times, but with brighter spells.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dist storm; du=dust; f=fair; lg=fog; g=gale; h=halt

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	1.1	0.03	9	46	London	0.5	1	10	50
Angloph	X	X	9	46	Manchester	0.5	1	10	50
Armagh	1.3	0.03	7	45	Marble	0.5	1	10	50
Ashford	0.2	0.01	11	52	Midwest	0.5	1	10	50
Belfast	2.6	1	11	52	Monmouth	0.5	1	10	50
Birmingham	0.2	0.01	11	52	Newcastle	0.5	1	10	50
Bournemouth	2.6	1	11	52	Newport	0.5	1	10	50
Bristol	0.2	0.01	11	52	Nottingham	0.5	1	10	50
Buxton	0.5	1	10	50	Oxford	0.5	1	10	50
Cardiff	0.5	1	10	50	Perth	0.5	1	10	50
Canterbury	0.5	1	10	50	Plymouth	0.5	1	10	50
Cardiff	0.5	1	10	50	Poole	0.5	1	10	50
Chesham	0.5	1	10	50	Reading	0.5	1	10	50
Chesham	0.5	1	10	50	Salisbury	0.5	1	10	50
Chesham	0.5	1	10	50	Shrewsbury	0.5	1	10	50
Chesham	0.5	1	10	50	Skipton	0.5	1	10	50
Chesham	0.5	1	10	50	Southampton	0.5	1	10	



BUSINESS 29

The takeover inside track in The Times 100



ARTS 34-36

Scotland's national treasure: poet Norman MacCaig



SPORT 43-48

Australia bask in glory of another victory

SAUCE AND BUSINESS SENSE
Success secrets 31

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21 1995

Rexam hit by second warning

By PATRICIA TEHAN

REXAM, the packaging group formerly known as Bower, has issued its second profits warning in three months, blaming high pulp prices, destocking and weak demand.

The company said in August that it expected results for the year to be below expectations, close to last year's £231 million pre-tax profit. However, yesterday it said that, in view of current trading, it expected 1995 profits to be about 20 per cent lower - which would mean a pre-tax figure of £185 million. The margin on sales would fall from 9.3 per cent in the first half to about 8 per cent, Rexam said.

The surprise profit warning sent the shares down 37p, to 335p, against a year's high of 517p. David Lyon, chief executive, said that in spite of the bad news, institutional shareholders were still "strongly behind" the company and understood its long-term strategy.

He said that the company had pared back costs, but was continuing to follow its strategy of growing its "eight clusters of businesses on an international basis" and continuing investment in research and development.

Mr Lyon is to retire at 60 next March. He had hoped that a successor would be appointed by the end of the year. Yesterday he said that he hoped to announce an appointment in the first six weeks of next year.

Rexam is making a \$41 million acquisition of The Mark Industries, a Connecticut-based lipstick case market supplier, to expand its position in the international lipstick packaging market. The deal includes freehold properties worth \$21 million.

In a stock market statement, Rexam said volatile demand for raw materials continued "to have a detrimental effect" on it.

Chancellor comes under pressure to help ailing housing market

Home loans lowest since 1979

By ROBERT MILLER AND JANET BUSH

CALLS for Budget measures to help the housing market have intensified after net mortgage advances fell to their lowest monthly level since 1979, the year the Conservatives came to power.

MPs from both sides of the House joined leading industry figures in calling on the Government to provide practical help to restore consumer confidence in the £350 billion home loans industry. The Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender, called for Stamp Duty to be abolished.

The Building Societies Association (BSA), whose members account for more than 50 per cent of the mortgage market, said that net advances in October were £295 million compared with £614 million in the previous month and the £281 million recorded in December 1979. Savings in flows remained healthy, with £702 million in October against £903 million in September.

Net mortgage lending by banks in October was £509 million, down £85 million on September, according to figures yesterday from the British Bankers' Association (BBA). Consumer credit in general grew more strongly, with banks lending £505 million.

The weak mortgage lending components of yesterday's figures underlines the case for lower base rates. But M4 money supply figures showed a rise of 0.7 per cent in October, taking the annual rate of growth to 8.7 per cent from 8.2 per cent. M4 lending was up by £5.4 billion, a larger increase than the £4.1 billion recorded in September.

Peter Williams, head of research at the BSA, which also announced that gross mortgage lending in October was £2.6 billion compared with £2.7 billion the previous month, said: "Over recent months total lending activity, measured by either the gross advances or net new commitments data, has remained fairly steady compared with previous year levels. This is especially the case after allowing for the fact that figures since August 1995 no longer include Cheltenham & Gloucester."

C&G is now the official retail mortgage arm of Lloyds Bank.

Noting that most new mortgages business is people re-mortgaging their homes, Mr Williams said: "Reflecting the very low levels of property transactions generally, the number of loans advanced by building societies for actual house purchase has fallen by 17 per cent in the first ten months of this year compared with the corresponding period in 1994."

Mr Williams added: "The general cuts in personal taxation likely to be announced in this month's Budget may help to build consumer confidence over time, but there is also a strong case for the Chancellor to announce specific additional and immediate measures to help the housing market."

Nicholas Winterton, Tory MP for Maclefield, has campaigned for such help since early summer. He said: "The situation in the housing market is now dire. If we are

Pennington 27

to avoid free-fall, homeowners have every right to look to government to deliver policies next week in the Budget."

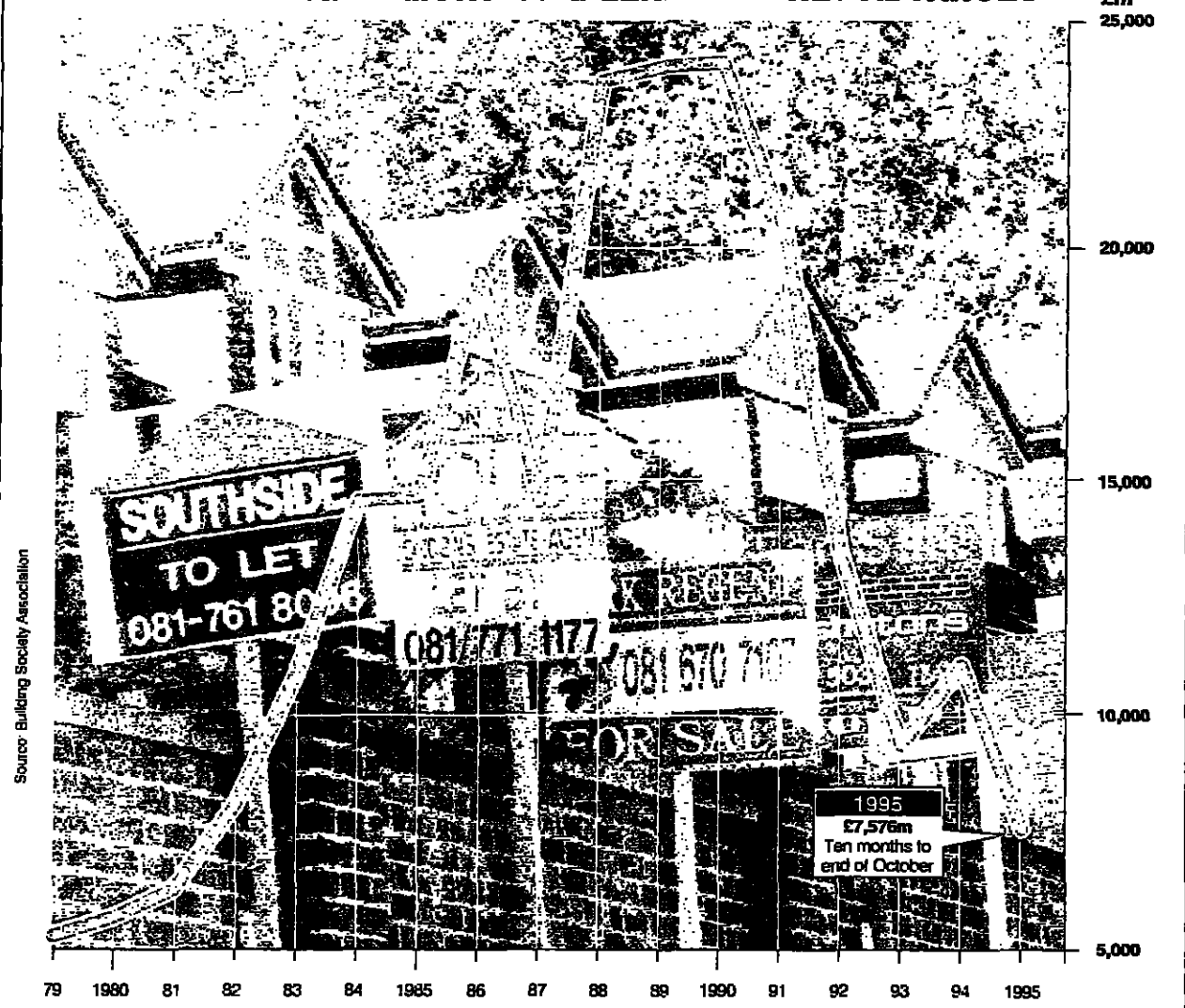
He urged the Government to "generate the increase in housing market activity that is essential if the economy as a whole is to begin to grow to fulfil the potential that other indicators suggest it has."

Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, said: "The main reason the housing market is so flat and growth activity is so low is because of people's deep fear of unemployment and the complete uncertainty as to what the future holds."

Money supply is now growing near to the top of the Government's 3 per cent to 9 per cent monitoring range and is known to be causing concern at the Bank of England.

However, City economists said that there are various reasons for M4's strong growth which do not necessarily signal a pick-up in economic activity or inflation.

BUILDING SOCIETY MORTGAGE LENDING - NET ADVANCES



Stockpiles signal slower growth

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British economy would not have grown at all in the third quarter if there had not been a huge build-up of stocks, in itself a sign that growth could deteriorate even more in the months ahead.

The figures convinced the City that the Chancellor will soon push for lower interest rates. The prospect of sterling to another record low on its effective index against a basket of currencies. It closed at 82.2 against Friday's previous record low of 82.3. The

Central Statistical Office reported that gross domestic product rose by 0.4 per cent in the third quarter. Preliminary figures had shown growth of 0.5 per cent and a year-on-year rate of 2.4 per cent. Non-oil GDP grew by 0.3 per cent against 0.5 per cent in preliminary estimates. This pushed down its year-on-year growth rate to 2.1 per cent, the lowest since the second quarter of 1993.

The mix of growth was also worrying, with consumer

spending up 0.7 per cent but investment down by a sharp 2.2 per cent. Imports outstripped exports and construction fell sharply.

The 0.4 per cent rise in total GDP came only because there was a large build-up of stocks, which boosted GDP by 0.4 per cent. When these stocks start moving they will be a significant drag on GDP and growth in the next two quarters could be very weak.

The Bank of England has expressed concern that a

build-up of stocks could depress growth quite sharply and it is likely that yesterday's figures will have softened its opposition to lower base rates.

Experience in America, with a build-up of stocks and then a shake-out, suggests that output price inflation will slow sharply and keep retail prices subdued, Michael Saunders of Salomon Brothers said. Two impediments to lower interest rates are sterling's weakness and strong growth in M4 money supply.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3828.8	(+19.6)
Yield	3.94%	
FT-SE All share	1776.97	(+7.47)
Nikkei	18383.82	(+232.66)
New York	4962.48	(+2.53)
Dow Jones	596.06	(-1.01)
S&P Composite		

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.50%	(5.50%)
Long Bond	109.75	(109.75)
Yield	6.25%	(6.25%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
Libor long	100.00	(100.00)
Future (Dec)		

STERLING

New York	1.5493	(1.5493)
London		
\$	1.5497	(1.5500)
DM	2.1888	(2.1733)
FF	7.5269	(7.5070)
Sfr	1.7643	(1.7607)
Yen	157.14	(158.12)
E index	82.2	(82.3)

US\$ \$

London		
DM	1.4095	(1.4073)
FF	4.9502	(4.9482)
Sfr	1.3387	(1.3385)
Yen	101.32	(102.19)
E index	93.0	(93.1)

TOKYO

Tokyo close	Yan 102.75	
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NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$16.60	(\$16.65)
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GOLD

London close	\$386.40	(\$386.55)
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* denotes midday trading price

Rowland seeks to bar Lonrho merger

By COLIN CAMPBELL

TINY ROWLAND, ousted from Lonrho's board in November 1994 after a public and private fall-out with Dieter Bock, chief executive, is urging fellow Lonrho shareholders to block Mr Bock's plans to merge Lonrho's platinum interests with Gencor's Impala platinum mines.

Mr Rowland, who with 6.5 per cent is Lonrho's second-largest shareholder, promises a detailed circular outlining his objections, which will contain "interesting information", is to follow shortly.

Meanwhile, he says Lonrho's platinum mines in South Africa are the company's major asset.

Shareholders are told they should "not lose control of a great mine" on the cheap.

Mr Rowland said last night that three years ago Gencor's then chairman, Derek Keyes, offered to buy his (then) 10 per cent stake, or 94 million shares, at 260p a share.

"I refused the offer when Gencor told me that they would not extend the same terms to all other shareholders," Mr Rowland said.

Mr Rowland's latest role against Mr Bock suggests he fears Gencor, which in recent years has made various offers to acquire Lonrho's platinum interests, is "creeping" up on Lonrho again. Mr Bock holds 18 per cent of Lonrho.

"In my opinion, further purchases of a major block of Lonrho shares would, combined with this [platinum] merger, put Gencor in control of Lonrho without a full offer," Mr Rowland said.

"It is my firm belief that this is the wrong deal and should be voted down," he said.

Top Tesco post for Leahy

TERRY LEAHY, deputy managing director of Tesco, is expected shortly to be appointed chief executive of the supermarket chain.

Sir Ian MacLaurin will remain chairman of Tesco and will work closely alongside Mr Leahy who will adopt what is a new title on Tesco's board. Mr Leahy has been a member of Tesco's board since 1992. He joined the company in 1979 and held several marketing appointments until 1986 when he became a commercial director of Tesco Stores.

Sir Ian, 58, has stamped his authority on the company since he took over as chairman in 1985. There has been speculation within the City as to whether Tesco would seek outside talent, or promote from within. In the event, Tesco has chosen the latter course.

Sir Ian is expected to retire in two years' time and will hand over the UK's most successful supermarket chain,



Leahy: lead role

in terms of sales, to an as yet undisclosed successor.

Sir Ian, who is also a non-executive director of Guinness, NatWest and Glencroft, joined Tesco as a management trainee in 1969 and was appointed to the board in 1970. He became managing director in 1973, and deputy chairman a decade later.

In 1985 he took over as

chairman from Sir Leslie Porter, son-in-law of the late Sir Jack Cohen who founded Tesco on a "pile them high, sell them cheap" philosophy. A subsequent attempt by Sir Leahy's wife, Dame Shirley Porter, to join Tesco's board was rebuffed.

Sir Ian is widely credited in the City with having overseen Tesco's transformation from a family dominated company to one of the UK's most aggressive retail chains.

With Sir Ian's retirement nearing, the format of Tesco's board will come under increasing scrutiny, by City institutions and retail rivals alike.

In September, Tesco revealed a 25.6 per cent rise in mid-year sales to £5.9 billion, with like-for-like sales up 10 per cent. Pre-tax profits rose 15.1 per cent to £290 million, with market share rising from 10.6 per cent to 12.6 per cent.

On the stock market yesterday Tesco's shares held steady at 284p.

Shares surge to record before Budget

By MICHAEL CLARK

SHARE prices on the London stock market closed at an all-time high ahead of next week's Budget.

Prices opened on a firm note, anticipating that the Dow Jones industrial average would climb above the 5,000 level for the first time after President Clinton's announcement that he had reached agreement with Congress on the US Budget.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index surged 30 points to a new high of 3,639.5 cheered by an upward revision of the third-quarter GDP. But a hesitant start to trading in New York, which saw the Dow briefly breach 5,000, left prices in London below their best. The index saw its lead reduced to 19.6 at 3,628.8.

Stock market, page 28

Nuclear chief Collier dies

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE death of John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric, Britain's biggest state-owned atomic generator, on Saturday casts a shadow over government plans to float Nuclear Electric's most modern power plants, together with those of Scottish Nuclear, next June or July.

As chairman of Nuclear Electric and deputy chairman of British Energy, the new holding company created for privatisation, Mr Collier, 60, was to have played a key role in the sale.

A chemical engineer by training, he climbed through the ranks of the Central Electricity Generating Board to become head of its power station building programme in 1983, when nuclear projects headed the agenda.

In 1987 he was appointed to lead the Atomic Energy Authority, the technology lead body for Britain's nuclear



Collier: campaigned

industry. But in 1990, after plans to privatise Britain's nuclear power industry were abandoned, he was brought back to run Nuclear Electric, with a portfolio of atomic power plants accounting for a quarter of the electricity used in England and Wales.

There he presided over an outstanding improvement in productivity and plant availability, combined with big

reductions in output cost. He also campaigned to rebuild the industry's blighted image, and for privatisation.

Nuclear Electric is set to be vested on January 1, in preparation for a flotation, together with Magnox Electric, containing older plants destined to remain in the public sector. Bob Hawley, chief executive, is expected to take the work forward while Ian Lang, president of the board of trade, appoints Mr Collier's successor.

Mr Lang is expected to seek a candidate who, like Mr Collier, combined long operating experience in the nuclear industry with a strong understanding of the engineering principles. One likely candidate is Ray Hall, chief executive-designate of Magnox Electric. But Brian Eyre, chairman of the AEA Government Division, and Derek Pooley, its chief executive, may also be front runners.

Obituary, page 21

Dear John,
With a mortgage that's fixed at 4.49%, what can I say?
I'm over the moon.
Yours,
N. Armstrong

When it comes to fixed rate mortgages, no-one tries harder than John Charcol. Our latest rate of just 4.49% (4.7% APR) until October 1997 certainly deserves your full attention. This exceptionally competitive mortgage is available for purchases up to 95% and remortgages of up to 80% of the property's value. There are no compulsory insurances, and at the end of the term, you have the choice between another fixed rate or a variable rate. For a written quotation, call John Charcol on (0171) 611 7000, or Leeds (0113) 247 0338 or our new offices in Cambridge (01223) 464 146 and Southampton (0703) 339 889. Alternatively, drop in and see us at 10-12 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DD.

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Typical Example: A £60,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 repaid over 25 years assuming completion on 1/5/96, 300 gross monthly repayments of £224.50 assuming a fixed rate of 4.49% (APR 4.72%) until 1/10/97 and further assuming that the variable base mortgage rate remains at 4.49% after the initial fixed rate has expired for the remainder of the mortgage term. In practice the variable base mortgage rate might differ from the typical example. A £60,000 interest only mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 repaid over 25 years assuming completion on 1/5/96, 300 gross monthly repayments of £224.50 assuming a fixed rate of 4.49% (APR 4.72%) until 1/10/97 and further assuming that the variable base mortgage rate remains at 4.49% after the initial fixed rate has expired for the remainder of the mortgage term. In practice the variable base mortgage rate might differ from the typical example. 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Two call no evidence in Maxwell court case

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE defence case in the marathon Maxwell trial ended yesterday without either Ian Maxwell or Larry Trachtenberg calling any evidence.

Kevin Maxwell last week ended a four-week stint in the witness box at the Central Criminal Court, defending himself against two charges of conspiracy to defraud pension funds.

Yesterday, the 150th day of the trial, Edmund Lawson, QC, for Ian Maxwell, and Michael Hill, QC, for Mr Trachtenberg, each told the court that they were calling no evidence.

Lord Justice Phillips then told the jury that this meant that all the evidence had been concluded and that it was now time for final speeches.

They will begin today with Alan Suckling, QC, for the prosecution, followed by counsel for all three accused.

The judge told the jury of five men and seven women

that, after that, he would need a little time to prepare his summing up.

He said that he intended to start summing up on December 11 and would send the jury out when he had finished. If they had not reached a verdict on the first day, he said, he proposed to send them to a hotel for the night and on subsequent nights. If any of them had problems with that, they should inform his clerk.

The judge altered the timing of this Thursday's session because he is being sworn into the Privy Council after his appointment as an appeal judge.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, denies conspiring with his father, the late Robert Maxwell, to defraud the pension funds by misusing £100 million worth of shares in Scitex, an Israeli company. He, his brother Ian, 39, and Mr Trachtenberg, 42, a former Maxwell financial adviser, said a similar charge relating to £22 million worth of shares in Teva, another Israeli company.

The prosecution alleges that, at the material time, the shares belonged to BIM (Bishopsgate Investment Management), which administered the pension funds and were not for the Maxwells to sell or pledge.

The Crown claims that in the months before Robert Maxwell's death at sea in November 1991, he and Kevin sold the Scitex shares to pay private Maxwell company debts.

In the days after the tycoon's death, the prosecution claims, the three accused pledged the Teva shares as security for a loan to try to prop up the collapsing empire.

Kevin Maxwell has told the jury that he believed that the ownership of the shares had been transferred from BIM to the Robert Maxwell group of companies and that, therefore, he had been acting honestly and in what he believed were the best interests of the group. The trial continues today.



Robin Miller, Emap chief executive, is not concerned by an expected fall in advertising growth

Emap warning after 53% rise

By ERIC REGULY

EMAP, the media group, reported interim earnings at the high end of City forecasts but gave a warning yesterday that slowing revenue growth, combined with higher paper costs, will take the sheet off second-half results.

Emap, whose properties range from specialist magazines such as *Angling Times* to *Metro* Radio in London, had pre-tax earnings of £33.9 mil-

lion in the half-year to September 30, up 53 per cent from the same period last year. The company made gains in all its business units, including commercial radio and Emap France, its latest acquisitions.

David Forster, a Merrill Lynch analyst, said the radio division was the best performer. Like-for-like advertising revenue rose 25 per cent in the first half, leading to radio

operating profits of £5.4 million (£1.5 million). The results include earnings from the Trans World Communications stations acquired last year but only a small contribution from the Metro Radio stations, bought for £102 million in mid-September.

Emap, now owner of the largest UK commercial radio network with a 17.7 per cent audience share, said radio will

contribute 20 per cent of full-year profits, rising steadily over the next few years.

Mr Forster said rising radio earnings is among the main reasons behind his full-year pre-tax profits estimate of £85 million, or 26.9p per share, up from his previous estimate of £81.5 million. Anthony De Larringa of Pannure Gordon also expects full-year profits of £85 million against his last estimate of £82 million.

The company's pre-tax profits included a £3.9 million charge for restructuring businesses acquired in the first half. Earnings per share rose 34 per cent to 10.6p while turnover was up 43 per cent to £334.1 million. The interim dividend, payable on January 12, rises from 2.5p to 3.7p.

Robin Miller, chief executive, expects slower economic growth in the second half to take the momentum out of advertising revenue. He predicts advertising growth will rise 6 per cent, against 8 per cent in the first half. "It's not the end of the world, and ad levels will depend somewhat on what happens in the Budget," he said. The shares closed unchanged at 53p.

Times, page 28

Boeing strike comes to an end

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

WORKERS at Boeing, the Seattle aircraft manufacturer, are claiming victory in a strike that has affected 35,000 staff and cut the company's production by about 15 per cent this year.

The 45-day strike is due to end today after 20 hours of negotiation between the machinists' union and management over a three-year

contract which gives workers protection against sub-contracting work and improves severance pay and pensions benefits. The deal, which workers are expected to approve in a vote today, generates \$450 extra for each employee over the next nine months on top of higher company benefits.

The strike has helped to

depress Boeing's output for 1995 to its lowest level in recent years, with the production of only 200 aircraft compared with 235 before the strike began.

The missing deliveries will probably be shifted into next year, the company said. The end of the strike comes at a crucial time for Boeing which is currently in negotiations with McDonnell Douglas, the military aircraft manufacturer, over a possible merger or asset swap that could create the world's largest aerospace group.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dutch ultimatum over Fokker's fate

THE Dutch Government will allow Fokker to go to the wall unless a new pan-European regional aircraft company is formed embracing British Aerospace, Aerospaciale de France and Alenia of Italy. Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economics Minister, said. The threat comes as the crisis in Europe's aerospace industry boils over into strike action over job cuts by aircraft industry workers at Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) in Germany. The job cuts will accompany details of Dasa's rescue plan, approved yesterday.

Dasa is still negotiating with the Dutch Government about the future of Fokker, a minority partner in the Dasa subsidiary. Mr Wijers said Fokker must continue to assemble aircraft and play "a very important role" in a new European grouping. "When Dasa cheaply bought the majority of Fokker shares from the Dutch Government in 1993, it was agreed that Fokker would have a leading position in a European group," he said.

New jobs for Ulster

UP TO 2,000 jobs are to be created in Northern Ireland in six investment projects which are expected to be announced this week. It is understood that Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will this morning announce the creation of 1,000 jobs at Montpet, the French-owned manufacturer of car components in Belfast. Sir Patrick will announce the details at the Belfast headquarters of the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board, which has attracted the new investments.

C&W power struggle

BOARD members of Cable & Wireless were meeting last night in an effort to break a bitter power struggle between Lord Young, executive chairman, and James Ross, chief executive. The company is likely to make an announcement today about the outcome. C&W said "legal reasons" prevented it from making an announcement last night, while the London Stock Market was closed. It is expected that that one of the two executives will announce his early retirement today.

Capital plan in store

CAPITAL & Regional Counties, the property group, unveiled plans to spruce up the Wembley area after it bought the local retail park and industrial estate for £16 million. Capital & Regional said it had identified opportunities to enhance the value of the north London estate, bought from Clerical Medical, which it said was in need of upgrading. There are 23 stores at the site, including MFI, Carpetright and WH Smith, as well as industrial units.

LCH set for shake-up

A CHANGE in the ownership structure of the London Clearing House, used by all City futures markets to clear contracts, is likely to be agreed next week, according to Michael Jenkins, an LCH director. The London Metal Exchange has been concerned about the effect on its clearing system, if LCH changes meant that the LME was effectively clearing through another exchange. If unable to agree on changes, the LME could opt for a clearing system of its own.

Accounting rule change

COMPANIES changing their accounting policy must give comparative figures to disclose the effect of the change on their current year's figures, the Accounting Standards Board's urgent task force has ruled in a clarification of company law. It applies to accounts for trading years ending after December 22. Under existing standard FRSS3, companies already must show what the previous year's figures would have been if the new policy had been applied.

TOURIST RATES

Bank Buyers	Bank Sellers
Australia \$	2.19
Austria Sch	16.45
Belgium Fr	48.15
Canada \$	2.195
Cyprus Cyp£	0.740
Denmark Kr	8.12
Finland Mk	7.10
France Fr	2.57
Germany Dm	2.35
Greece Dr	378.24
Hong Kong S	12.59
Ireland Pt	1.02
Israel Shk	5.190
Italy Lira	2577.00
Japan Yen	172.79
Malta	0.586
Netherlands Gld	2.32
New Zealand \$	2.52
Norway Kr	10.26
Portugal Esc	241.50
S Africa Rd	ref.
Spain Ptas	195.50
Sweden Kr	10.00
Switzerland Fr	1.91
Turkey Lira	ref.
USA \$	1.54
	1.515
	7763.00
	1.73

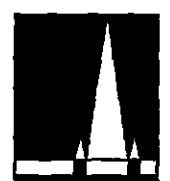
Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

COURT, MANCHESTER, 10 New Road, Chorley, Lancashire, PO18 1JH. Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at 11.15 a.m. on 21st November 1995 at the above address. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a statement of affairs from the company and to elect a liquidator. The company is a private company limited by shares. The registered office of the company is at 10 New Road, Chorley, Lancashire, PO18 1JH. The company's number is 01753 752246. The company's name is THE LEADENHALL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED. The company's address is 10 New Road, Chorley, Lancashire, PO18 1JH. The company's telephone number is 01753 752246. The company's fax number is 01753 752247. The company's e-mail address is leadenhall@compuserve.com. The company's website is www.leadenhall.co.uk. The company's company secretary is Mr D G Jones of Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1JH. The company's company director is Mr D G Jones of Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1JH. The company's company auditor is Mr D G Jones of Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1JH. The company's company solicitor is Mr D G Jones of Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1JH. The company's company accountant is Mr D G Jones of Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1JH. The company's company lawyer is Mr D G Jones of Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1JH. The company's company architect is Mr D G Jones of Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1JH. The company's company engineer is Mr D G Jones of Price Waterhouse, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1JH. 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□ Job fears and the housing market □ Treasury eyes the lottery levy □ Market balances on a new high

Home lending in the basement

□ SO JOB insecurity, according to Ian Lang's gaffe last week, is merely a state of mind. So too is paranoia, but as the old joke has it, that doesn't mean they're not out to get you.

Blind terror is yet a third state of mind, and an entirely appropriate one in today's jobs market, which goes a long way towards explaining yesterday's mortgage lending figures.

While these languish at their lowest point since Mrs Thatcher first quoted St Francis of Assisi all those years ago, separate statistics show consumers are prepared to bring out their credit cards again, sparking a rise in consumer credit that is the highest on record.

Consumers are clearly happier with short-term debt — perhaps, if worst comes to worst, cleared from that long-dreaded redundancy cheque — than with a long-term investment in their homes and lives in the shape of a higher mortgage.

One of the odder quirks of the post-recession stagnation we are experiencing is that employees are now far more conscious of the precise amount it would cost their employers to get rid of them. The figure on that imagined redundancy cheque, as it ticks up each year according to

terms of employment, has become part of most people's personal financial capital, a statistic more pondered than the value of their house.

This sets the jobs market in concrete, because if all jobs are risky, better the one that pays off on redundancy than the unproven venture with a smaller figure at the end of the game.

With employers becoming less generous with redundancy payments, a point made most recently by the TUC in its pre-Budget submissions last week, those settlements are less and less likely to pay off any additional mortgage taken on when the householder moves. Stagnant house prices mean the costs of moving create an immediate shortfall. No surprise that homebuying, for most a deferrable purchase, is by many being deferred permanently.

With housebuying now as affordable as at any time since the Tories came to power, the expected half-point off interest rates will make precious little

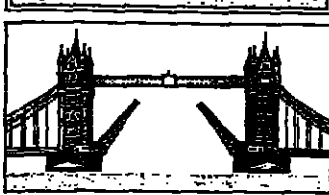
difference. The mortgage lenders are calling for abolition of Stamp Duty, or a doubling of the threshold to £120,000. This would make many house moves cheaper, but it is not going to create the sea change that will kick-start an entire market.

The industrial legislation of the past fifteen years was one half of a Faustian bargain — a freer jobs market in return for the fear now hobbling the homes market. Homes are not going to shift again until at least some of that bargain is rewritten.

A tax beyond our Ken?

□ WITH the National Lottery achieving sales of more than £4.4 billion during its first year, Camelot's mid-year profits, due today, are expected to be struck at around £23 million, post tax. This could well herald a first ever dividend — a payment, should it transpire, that will not pass unnoticed by shareholders in

PENNINGTON



consortium members such as Cadbury Schweppes, Racal and De La Rue.

Nor, with the Budget a week away, would such a payout be missed by the Treasury. David Mellor, unsurprisingly in view of his former role as Heritage Secretary, is something of an expert on the Treasury's thinking on the National Lottery. Last month Mr Mellor, focusing on the subject of lottery duty, told the House: "I think that I can safely say that the Treasury's ambitions were rather larger than the 12 per cent for which it was ultimately forced to settle." Mr Mellor went on to point out

that the tax take could be as high as £500 million, excluding corporation tax on Camelot's profit. In his own words: "The lottery is a nice little earner for our Ken."

Mr Mellor let it be known that some senior Treasury figures still bear the bruises of defeat in their original attempts to wrest a higher tax rate from Camelot. The self same officials, tasked with finessing tax cuts, would love to raise the levy to at least 15 per cent. On annual sales of £5 billion, a £600 million tax take would thus rise to £750 million.

But this would not be a victimless tax. The formula requires 60 per cent of any increase to be deducted from prizes and 40 per cent from the National Lottery Distribution Fund, so prizes would fall by £90 million in a full year and funds to good causes by £60 million. This would cut the weekly prize fund by £1.7 million a week and the jackpot by up to £1 million. More to the point, it would reduce the fund's inflow by £1.15

million a week and the amount specifically paid to charities (one fifth of the fund total) by £12 million a year. If John Major wants to avoid what Mr Mellor described as a "spectacular own goal" he may have to bruise a few Treasury figures yet again.

Placing a bet on the FT-SE

□ WE HAVE all been here before, in the dying months of 1993, and a fat lot of good it did us then. The log shows that despite plenty of evidence of economic slowdown, December 1993 saw no fewer than nine new closing highs for the FT-SE, which exited the year above 3,400. By the end of May, of course, it was back below 3,000 again.

Two years later, and the profits warnings are coming even from the likes of Rexam, the renamed Bowater and a company that has as good a right as any to be regarded as a blue-chip. The pressures on earnings

this autumn are sluggish demand and a squeeze on margins from raw material prices, both in evidence from Rexam.

Yet the FT-SE is again into uncharted territory, spurred by good news on the inflation front, and City scribbles are buffing up their year-end forecasts for 1996. The range now being indicated is 3,800 to 3,900, but super-bulls might like to know that an argument can apparently be made for 4,600, on the assumption, *inter alia*, of an earnings multiple of 21.

It is, as always, a matter of when to get out. A strong performance in the first half, that is, a non-repetition of 1994, will then be followed by falls in London, for reasons of domestic politics if for no others.

Hold the front page

□ WHATEVER luxuries they may supply Nick Leeson in Hoechst jail, up-to-date newspapers are not among them. Heading back to Changi within days and until now pretty sharp on the public relations front, he has decided to give only his second interview, to a BBC film crew. Unfortunately, he chose yesterday. *Panorama* is not thought to be in the bidding.

News Corp in satellite service for Latin America

By ERIC REGULY

THE News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, and three other large communications companies have joined forces to launch a satellite television service in the fast-growing Latin American and Caribbean markets.

News Corp and its partners — Organizacoes Globo, of Brazil, Grupo Televisa, of Mexico, and Tele-Comunicaciones Inc. of the US — plan to beam about 50 Spanish and Portuguese satellite channels to the region by next spring.

The service will be offered largely on a direct-to-home basis, requiring subscribers to buy small satellite receivers,

because cable penetration in the area is low.

The partnership is an important step in News Corp's drive to become a global distributor of television programming. In Britain, the company owns 40 per cent of BSkyB, the main satellite broadcaster. It also owns Star Television, in Asia, whose launch costs have exceeded \$1 billion.

Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News Corp, said: "The alliance demonstrates our long-term commitment to the Latin American market. The partnership now has all the components to become the leading supplier of satellite services in the region."

News Corp, Globo and

Grupo Televisa will each have a 30 per cent stake in the venture, and TCI will have 10 per cent. Mr Murdoch said that the total launch costs will be about \$500 million and that the service should break even by the year 2000.

Each of the four partners will contribute programming to the venture. News Corp will be able to provide a wide variety of sports, movies and children's show as well as subscriber management systems and encryption technology.

Globo controls, or has interests in, Brazil's dominant broadcaster, a cable programmer, a radio company and the country's second-largest magazine publisher. Grupo Tele-

visa is the largest media company in the Spanish-speaking world, with interests ranging from television production to sports promotion. It also has a stake in PanAmSat, a private satellite company that will have four satellites operating over South America by 1997.

TCI, of Denver, is the world's largest cable company. Its television interests include original programming and distribution.

The venture, as yet unnamed, appears powerful enough to concern competitors. Direct TV, owned by Hughes Electronics of the US, has also been planning a direct-to-home satellite service in Latin America.

US groups top National Grid bidding

AN AMERICAN energy group, on a short list of three companies, is poised to take control of the generation business owned by National Grid with a bid that could top £600 million (Martin Waller writes).

Bids from Mission Energy of California and Dominion Energy of Virginia are substantially ahead of the £350-£400 million value first put on the business, which comprises two under-used pumped storage power stations in North Wales.

The high American bids have priced Eastern Group, the Rec owned by Hanson, out of the running. Scottish Hydro, still in the fight, was thought to have offered a little more than Eastern's £430 million.

Directors of Filofax sell shares for £2.6m

By SARAH BAGNALL

THREE directors of Filofax have raised £2.6 million by the sale of nearly a million shares in the personal organiser group. Filofax has seen its share price rise steeply over the past five years as management has successfully restored its battered fortunes.

A total of 959,281 shares were sold at 268.5p a share, a small discount to yesterday's opening share price and all-time high of 275p.

The shares fell 6p to 269p — a far cry from the low of 13p the shares commanded in October 1990.

Robin Field, chief executive, raised £468,875 from the sale of 175,000 shares, a move that reduced his holding to one million, representing 3.4 per



Field: confident of future

cent of the group's equity. The largest sale was made by Richard Koch, a non-executive director, who raised £2 million by disposing of 750,000

shares, leaving him with a 6.8 per cent stake.

Richard Eteson, another director, sold 34,281 shares. The placing came as the group revealed a 37 per cent leap in pre-tax profits from £2.1 million to £2.9 million in the six months to September 30. The advance was made on the back of a 45 per cent rise in sales to £19.9 million.

The dividend, due March 29, was lifted from 1.05p to 1.35p and is being paid out of earnings of 7.4p a share, up from 6p last time.

Mr Field said he was confident about the future and that Filofax was looking to South America as its next overseas market. The company is currently in Argentina.

Tempos, page 28



Performance seen with fresh eyes.

For some, the true test of a car comes with the new Mercedes E-class. performance is how fast a car can go. But the most aerodynamic body we believe, however fast it goes, is never built. The best in its class, in fact of how a car performs, is how it feels for the driver. It will mean much to feel to drive. This is what the new Mercedes E-class brings to the road. Greater stability and

less noise. (Incidentally, it also means a significantly improved performance at the petrol station.)

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It also has a new electronic traction system called ETS. This allows you to drive on surfaces as different as ice and tarmac simultaneously without

any loss of traction at all.

Its environmental performance is improved as well. A new catalytic converter means up to 48% less emissions than previous models.

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performs is to see it in action. To do that, or if you would like more information, simply call us on 0161 518 9088.



The new Mercedes E-class. Engineering seen with fresh eyes.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

New warning by Rexam cuts market's early gains

A PROFITS warning from Rexam took some of the shine off another record-breaking run by the London stock market. Shares of the paper and packaging group tumbled 37p to a new low of 335p after confirming recent City fears and issuing its second warning in less than four months.

The group said it was now braced for a 20 per cent shortfall in profits, which last year totalled £213 million. It stretches the fall in its share price during the past three weeks to around 80p.

Rexam blamed weak demand and despatching by customers, which had continued into the final quarter. It said sales volumes would now be significantly below earlier expectations and margins were also down.

The City had been anticipating another warning about profits, but the size of the downturn surprised even the most bearish brokers. The warning comes hard on the heels of a similar message from rival Arjo Wiggins-Applton, 12p down at 180p.

Share prices generally had opened on a firm note in anticipation of the Dow Jones average breaching the 5,000 mark when trading resumed after the weekend break, but this latest profits warning from a blue chip company and a subdued start to trading on Wall Street saw earlier gains eroded. The FT-SE 100 index climbed 30 points early on to a new all-time high of 3,639.5, cheered by an upward revision in the third-quarter GDP.

It finished 19.6 up at a new closing peak of 3,628.8. Doubts about the economy and the reluctance of investors to open fresh positions ahead of next week's Budget meant that turnover levels were subdued. By the close just 641 million shares had changed hands.

Lloyds Bank, up 9p at 847p, and TSB Group, 5p firmer at 410p, will drop out as separate constituents of the top 100 companies once their merger is complete on December 28. The new, enlarged company will be joined by the largest company on the reserve list.

SmithKline Beecham A rose 17p to 705p after being granted a licence to market Seraxat, used for the treatment of panic attacks, in this country. Glaxo Wellcome also hardened 10p to 895p after receiving marketing approval from the US Food and Drug



Lloyds and TSB will each leave top 100 but return as one

Administration for its Epiriv, an anti-Aids treatment. Epiriv will be used in conjunction with Retrovir, the Aids treatment it acquired along with Wellcome earlier this year.

Granada advanced 19p to 699p ahead of full-year figures on Wednesday. Reports at the weekend claimed the group is about to embark on a major expansion programme and

SBC Warburg, the broker, has been quick to make a market in shares of the National Grid, two days before the proposed start of trading on the grey market. It was bidding 216p for stock and offering the shares at 222p. The prospectus is due to be published tomorrow.

may be considering at least one sizeable acquisition. Top of its hit-list is said to be Ladbroke, up 5p at 132p, and Pearson, owner of The Financial Times, Lazard's merchant bank and Penguin publishing. Pearson was 7p better at 655p.

Yesterday was pay day for several directors of Filofax Group as they cashed in a total of 959,281 shares at

268.5p. Robin Field, chief executive, and fellow director Richard Etonson have sold 209,281 shares after exercising 457,762 and 143,281 options at 37p and 41p respectively. The balance of 750,000 shares were sold by Richard Koch, a non-executive director.

The disposals coincided with an impressive set of half-year figures from Filofax

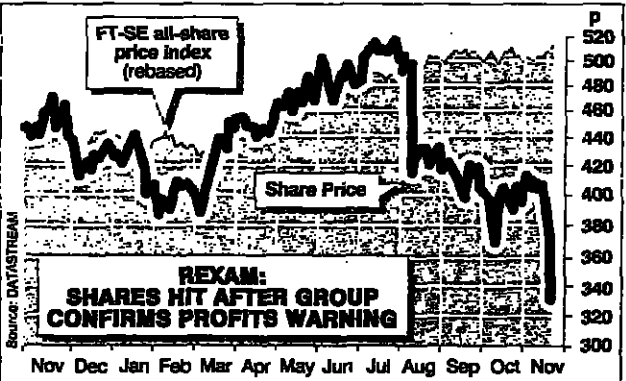
showing a healthy increase in both sales and profits. The group also admits it is on the look-out for suitable acquisitions.

Shares of Ferry Pickering, the printing and packaging specialist, climbed 37p to 171p in an exceptionally thin market on the news that it had received a second bid approach. In September it rejected an approach but says it is

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt ended 1/4 lower at £108 7/32 in modest turnover. By the close only 40,000 contracts had been completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished 1/4 easier at £100 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 slipped 1/4 to £103 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street touched the 5,000 level briefly, only to retreat, and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 2.53 points higher at 4,992.48.



REXAM: SHARES HIT AFTER GROUP CONFIRMS PROFITS WARNING

now in talks which may lead to an agreed bid, the group is valued at £23 million. During the first six months of the year it lifted pre-tax profits by £155,000 to £930,000.

A profits warning left Graseby, the electronics specialist, nursing a fall of 18p at 125p. Problems at its product monitoring and environmental divisions were blamed and are likely to result in charges of at least £2 million. Brokers have begun slashing their forecasts for this year and next. James Capel has lowered its forecast for this year from £10.3 million to £6.5 million, with around £10 million pencilled in for 1996 compared with the earlier forecast of £11.3 million.

The benefits of recent acquisitions were clearly evident in half-year figures from Emap the publisher, with pre-tax profits 53 per cent ahead at £33.9 million. The group seems unperturbed by the recent decline in advertising revenue and plans to launch five new titles during the next six months. Shareholders were rewarded with a near 50 per cent rise in the dividend to 3.7p, but the shares were left marking time at 553p.

An increase in both profits and dividend last year lifted Diploma 12p to 453p. The group says it is on the lookout for acquisitions for all three divisions, with major expansion of its electronics division planned.

GLT-EDGED: Prices in London took their lead from weaker German bonds and also had to contend with further profit-taking after last week's impressive gains.

Sentiment remained overshadowed by the Budget, with institutional investors unwilling to open fresh positions. The pound's continued weakness on world currency markets was another worrying factor.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4992.48 (+2.53)
S&P Composite 599.06 (+1.01)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18383.82 (+232.66)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9373.91 (+86.01)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 463.51 (+3.10)

Sydney:
ASX 2126.40 (+6.70)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2218.30 (+17.03)

Singapore:
Straits 2086.88 (+9.47)

Brussels:
General 7058.32 (+38.33)

Paris:
CAC-40 1851.40 (+9.12)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 997.60 (+4.80)

London:
FT 30 2647.6 (+8.7)
FT 100 3628.8 (+19.6)
FT-SE Mid 250 3966.8 (+2.3)
FT-SE 250 3966.8 (+2.3)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1446.56 (+13.91)
FT A-Share 1776.97 (+7.47)
FT Non Financials 1875.86 (+5.31)
FT Fixed Interest 113.26 (+0.17)
FT Govt Sec 94.58 (+0.15)
Bargains 34870
SEAD Volume 66677
USM (contract) 187.56 (+0.29)
US\$ 1.5460 (-0.0006)
German Mark 2.1834 (-0.0003)
Exchange Index 622.4 (-0.1)
Bank of England official base rate 6.25%
ECCU 1.1673
ESOR 1.0095
RPI 149.8 Oct (3.2%) Jan 1997=100
RPI 148.7 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aburust Asian Smir 92
Abrust Smi Cos Wts 32
Atrion Props 9
BZW Eats Tesco Eits 291 + 2
Benfield & Rea 102
Charwell Int 64
Creos Int 124 + 2
David Glass (60) 70
Enterprise Inns (145) 148
Guinness Flight 91
Guinness Flight W 191
Guinness Flight W 191
Heritage Baths (125) 156
Int Greetings 503
MultiMedia (45) 65
Northern Venture 97
Perp UK Smi C (100) 99
Schröder Asia Pk 96
Schröder Asia Pk Wt 35
Vero Group 277

RIGHTS ISSUES

Fryson Leds n/p (100) 15
Maybank n/p (210) 34
Pilkington n/p (155) 49 + 3
Rhino Group n/p (8) 6 + 1
Superscape n/p (330) 86 + 3

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Toy Options 101p (+14p)
A McAlpine 140p (+14p)
HK Land 111p (+11p)
Panly 189p (+12p)
Hynes Pub 255p (+50p)
Fenon 660p (+25p)
Woodside 322p (+10p)
Granada 700p (+20p)
Lloyds 453p (+12p)
Br Aerospace 749p (+16p)

FALLS:
REXAM 335p (-37p)
Inchcape 287p (-10p)
Adan 450p (-10p)
Forward Gap 625p (-10p)
De La Rue 900p (-9p)
Security Serv 930p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Anyone for Eni?

THE Italian Government is feeling rather insecure about the privatisation of Eni. Not every broker or investment bank has been called into the global offering of 15 per cent of the state oil company's shares but there are few left to take an independent view.

Eni has been priced at a discount to leading oil companies and the explanations offered dwell on the usual concerns about volatile Italian politics and share markets. But there are more fundamental reasons why an investor might be wary of buying the stock.

Eni is not really an international oil company but a domestic energy supplier. In 1994, three-quarters of its £7.57 billion of operating income was generated in Italy with 40 per cent from Snam, the piped-gas operation. About half of net income was earned by Agip, the oil-exploration company.

whose main strength is a virtual monopoly on production in Italy's Po Valley. Production there is cheap with costs as low as \$2 per barrel and Agip makes three times as much from Italian barrels as from those drilled elsewhere. Unfortunately for Eni, Agip's Po Valley oil monopoly will end in January 1997 when outsiders begin to muscle in.

That leaves Eni heavily exposed to a single economy. It is a position that draws better comparison with Repsol's dependence on Spain, rather than the higher ratings of a Shell or Exxon. Moreover, the Italian Government is as keen as its Spanish counterpart to raise revenue and investors can expect further tranches of Eni to be sold. The prospect of further shares hitting the market will keep a lid on Eni's share price just as it has with Repsol.

Emap

EMAP's solid gains in operating margin came as a pleasant surprise to the market. The growth was achieved with little help from circulation; consumer magazines suffered a circulation volume decline but advertising revenue both in consumer and business titles grew by 10 per cent.

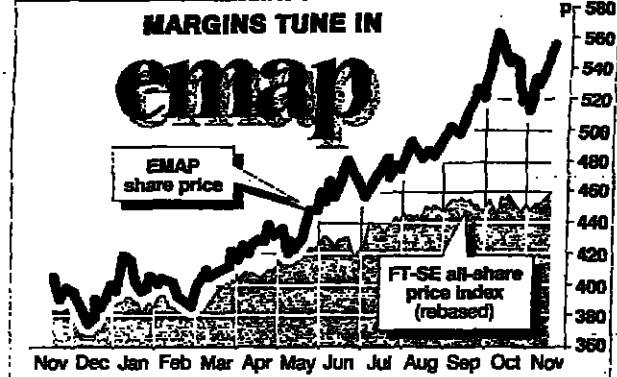
Emap itself may have aided the circulation decline. Rising paper prices posed a threat to its precious margins and in order to minimise the effect, the company aggressively targeted paper wastage. Typically, some 25 per cent of magazines produced are never sold and Emap reckons it reduced its unsold production by one percentage point.

Emap's recent big gamble is local radio and the cynics who said the company paid

too much when it bid £102 million for Metro Radio are having second thoughts. Radio is benefiting from a new interest from national advertisers and its proportion of total UK ad spend has risen from 2 per cent three years ago to 4 per cent. New advertisers have boosted both revenue and margins with more than half of

Emap's increased revenue coming from higher rates.

Emap believes it can deliver synergies across its radio network. Head office costs are easy to cut but the company must prove it can cut costs in advertising and programming. With more advertising from nationwide advertisers the plans are looking more credible.



Graseby

THERE is a weary familiarity about the latest profits warning from Graseby, the electronics group. For the past five years, the company has wooed investors with its promises of success, but delivered only heartache.

In theory, next year should be the year the company finally makes good. Graseby has an exciting high-tech portfolio in fashionable sectors such as medical and environmental instrumentation. The financial problems caused by the recall of the faulty checkweigher should be quickly overcome.

That said, Graseby faces two fundamental problems and so far the company is making little headway in its efforts to resolve them. Graseby relies too heavily on the fickle American market which provides 45 per cent of its sales. Chief executive Paul Lester talks about refocusing the company on the Far East, but Graseby is a long way

from making the Asian tigers its main market.

Secondly, too much of the company's core business requires a helping hand from governments around the world. When a change in government policy brings cutbacks in defence or the watering down of environmental legislation, Graseby bleeds.

The result is that the company generates less profit now than it did in 1989 before it launched a big restructuring programme. After the latest disappointment, it is hard to believe that next year will finally herald a new dawn.

recovery of the last five years has run its course.

Filofax is a stronger business today than the stock market fashion accessory that was launched in the late 1980s. Personal organisers no longer symbolise the Thatcherite workaholic but are used by everyone, from housewives to plumbers. The recent acquisitions of a greetings card maker and a leather goods manufacturer reduces the risk of exposure to a single product, while the core business is still showing underlying growth.

Filofax shares have risen in from a low of 13p five years ago to a peak of 27p last week. Filofax has ambitious expansion plans but the company is still pushing a product with many imitators. Given the continuing exposure of the company to Christmas gift sales and weak high street spending, investors might want to cash in any capital gains.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES			
LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
Cocoa	Dec 1050-1054	Mar 1050-1054	Volume 530
Robusta Coffee	Nov 2300-2310	Dec 2300-2310	Volume 120
White Sugar	Nov 384.5	Dec 384.5	Volume 120
Wheat	Nov 157.50-158.00	Dec 157.50-158.00	Volume 120
Barley	Nov 157.50-158.00	Dec 157.50-158.00	Volume 120
Oilseed Rape	Nov 157.50-158.00	Dec 157.50-158.00	Volume 120
Canola	Nov 157.50-158.00	Dec 157.50-158.00	Volume 120
Wheat	Nov 157.50-158.00	Dec 157.50-158.00	Volume 120
Barley	Nov 157.50-158.00	Dec 157.50-158.00	Volume 120
Oilseed Rape	Nov 157.50-158.00	Dec 157.50-158.00	Volume 120
Canola	Nov 157.50-158.00	Dec 157.50-158.00	Volume 120

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES			
FT-SE 100	Dec 3637.0	High 3637.0	Low 3637.0
FT-SE 250	Dec 3637.0	High 3637.0	Low 3637.0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 93.44	High 93.44	Low 93.44
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 96.08	High 96.08	Low 96.08
Three Mth Euro DTM	Dec 96.08	High 96.08	Low 96.08
Long Gilt	Dec 108.7	High 108.7	Low 108.7
Japanese Govt Bond	Dec 121.0	High 121.0	Low 121.0
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 97.99	High 97.99	Low 97.99
Three month ECU	Dec 94.57	High 94.57	Low 94.57
Italian Govt Bond	Dec 103.80	High 103.80	Low 103.80
Spanish Govt Bond	Dec 103.80	High 103.80	Low 103.80
Swiss Govt Bond	Dec 103.80	High 103.80	Low 103.80
French Govt Bond	Dec 103.80	High 103.80	Low 103.80
UK Govt Bond	Dec 103.80	High 103.80	Low 103.80
US Govt Bond	Dec 103.80	High 103.80	Low 103.80
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Underlying security price

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UK Govt Bond	Dec 103.80	High 103.80	Low 103.80
US Govt Bond	Dec 103.80	High 103.80	Low 103.80

Underlying security price

DOLLAR RATES			
Australia	1.3446-1.3455		
Canada	0.94-0.95		
Denmark (com)	20.62-20.68		
Denmark	1.3510-1.3513		
France	5.4765-5.4800		
Germany	4.8972-4.8987		
Hong Kong	1.1125-1.1133		
Italy	7.7333-7.7343		
Netherlands	1.5975-1.5993		
Japan	1590.90-1592.40		
Japan	101.67-101.72		
Malaysia	2.2800-2.2390		
Malaysia	1582.0-1582.2		
Orway	6.2280-6.2300		
Portugal	148.02-148.12		
Spain	141.32-141.42		
Spain	142.08-142.13		
Sweden	6.5631-6.5731		
Switzerland	1.1385-1.1395		
OTHER STERLING			
Australia dollar	1.3447-1.3467		
Canada dollar	0.9471-0.9485		
Central American	5.1535-5.585		
Costa Rican	1.6869-1.4911		
Guatemala	12.40 Bay		
Spanish pound	0.6825-0.7035		
Indonesian markka	6.4675-6.5935		
Japanese yen	160.00-160.40		
South Korean dollar	1.9479-1.9572		
Chinese dollar	53.20-54.60		
Chinese dollar	349.00-350.00		
Israeli dollar	52.50-54.16		
South African Rand	1.33-1.34		
New Zealand			
New Zealand			
AMP Inc	39 1/2		
AMP Corp	39 1/2		
Amalgamated	40 1/2		
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Good timing with Panorama

RICHARD DICKSON, who last year took early retirement from De Beers after 33 years of service, has lost none of his sense of timing. His first public company directorship was announced yesterday on the day that his chairman was over from Australia to spread the word about an alluring new gold project in Kenya.

The company just happens to be called Panorama. As the critics are saying this morning of last night's TV programme of the same name, "worth watching".

Shadow boxing

MEANWHILE, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is a man who knows his limitations. He took the opportunity as guest speaker at *The Sunday Times* KPMG Budget lunch in aid of the British Dyslexia Association to unveil an important tax pledge. But he listed all the news items he was having to compete with for a headline — the Prime Minister's speech last night, the Bosnian peace talks, the outside chance of a verdict in the Rosemary West case. But, of course, the *Panorama* interview was always destined to be the top story. *Panorama*, Brown quipped, has a very broad view of current affairs these days. He wondered whether the Princess might make a short detour from personal revelations and say what she thought should be in the Budget.



"That's our latest — an electronic profit warning."

Prize charities

FEATURED among the winners at yesterday's 12th Charity Annual Report and Accounts Awards, sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, were "green" and homeless charities. This year a record 598 organisations entered their accounts. Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, The Depaul Trust, and Earls Court Homeless Families Project won first prize in their respective categories, and each picked up £2,000.

Insurance case

NO WONDER some insurance companies are sceptical. WorldCover Direct is examining a claim from a man who put his case under a train seat, nodded off for the eight-hour journey, and woke to find all that was left was the frame of the suitcase. He asserts a rat or mouse must have eaten the outer cover and the entire contents. He is claiming for two mohair suits, four pairs of crocodile skin shoes, six silk shirts, two bottles of whisky and two of aftershave, one box of cigars and various items of gentleman's jewellery. "We're looking into it," WorldCover says.

DON'T think Boris Yeltsin is totally idle while recovering from his sickbed. He has ordered an unspecified amount of state gold to be sold "to pay pensions in November". It should improve the lot of 37 million Russian pensioners.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Ian McAllister, centre, chairman of Ford, backs the analysis of his company in *The Times* 100 teaching material for business studies students

Classrooms gain insight into what makes business tick

Lindsay Cook on how *The Times* 100
shows students industry is exciting

One of the most extensive business studies projects gets under way this week when thousands of packs begin to be transported across the country to every secondary school and college.

The *Times* 100 project is intended to supplement the text books for all business studies students taking the GCSE and A levels with real-life case studies from business and industry.

About 6,000 schools and colleges will receive the pack this week. Sponsored by more than 50 leading companies, the business studies package should help to bridge the gap between classroom theory and the problems and challenges facing businesses. They give the reasons behind big takeovers involving household names, other key decisions taken by industry and some of the strategies that the companies featured are employing.

Research by Understanding Industry, commissioned by the Centre for Applied Social and Organisational Research at the University of Derby, shows that only 22 per cent of 16- to 19-year-olds saw themselves working in industry. Most shared a negative view of it. "It just seems monotonous" and "You don't get anywhere" were two of the comments.

The research also indicated a much higher level of social awareness than business awareness, and although doctors and engineers were perceived to be worth the salaries they receive, managers were not.

More worryingly, the participating students had a poor knowledge of industry. More than 50 per cent could not even name three top British companies.

The *Times* 100 project was developed to bridge the information gap and to give students a clear idea of how industry works. In addition to case studies and support material on computer disks, *The Times* 100 pack has an introduction to understanding business, industry and the working of the City and the business, City and economics coverage of *The Times*.

Companies supporting the scheme include Abbey National, Allied Domecq, British Steel, Cadbury Schweppes, Coca-Cola, Dalgety, Ford, Hilldown Holdings, IBM, Ladbroke Group, National Power, Prudential, Reckitt & Colman and Seiko.

The sponsoring companies have not only assisted the scheme financially but have given open access to their decision-making process so that students can

understand the thinking behind key issues facing the companies now.

Exam, the packaging and printing group, which changed its name from Bowater in September, details the thinking behind abandoning a well-established name and choosing a new one that many people have difficulty spelling. The Exam case study states: "A strong global name is as much a strategic asset for a business as are its information systems, human resources and range of products."

The inability to use one name for the whole group, because it did not have the right to use the Bowater name in America, had become an increasing disadvantage. The company felt a name-change was a commercial necessity and used professional name-change advisers, and consulted customers, management and the workforce. The name chosen had to be acceptable to all, and more importantly, not be used anywhere in the world and not mean anything rude in any language.

Ford decided to allow access to its Employee Development and Assistance Programme — a joint union and company initiative. The programme was deemed necessary because the Ford workforce is, in general, less qualified than the workforces of leading international competitors.

About 80 per cent of the current workforce will still be with Ford in the year 2000 and the company decided it

was necessary to make sure that it is educated to a level to meet industry's needs now and in the future. Courses organised are taken voluntarily and in the employees' own time. During the first five years, 100,000 applications have been processed, and last year a third of the employees were involved in 60 courses, with computer literacy topping those chosen and German, Spanish and French not far behind.

Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford UK, praised the analysis of his company and of the others in the package. "The material which Ford, and others, have produced in collaboration with *The Times* team has resulted in a powerful collection of teaching and learning materials," he said.

He continued: "The principle of business working with schools and colleges is one which Ford has actively supported for many years and I am very pleased that Ford is associated with the new *Times* 100 initiative."

Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, said: "We hope that the project will be useful to students and will give them a real understanding of business and industry. We are proud to be associated with it."

Allied Domecq revealed the rationale behind the acquisition of Domecq last year. It is part of the company's strategy of building up a strong global presence in the wine and spirits market. "In

business there is a simple rule, if you can build up the predominant market share then the profits will follow," says the case study. It is important to be aware of the environment now and how it is likely to change over the next five or 20 years, the study adds.

The company says that it has looked well ahead and that it visualises that, in 20 years' time, its profit will arise evenly from around the world, with one third coming from an expanded European Union, one third from the Americas and one third from the Pacific Rim, Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa.

In the soft-drink market, Cadbury Schweppes looks at its acquisition of Dr Pepper/Seven-Up, the American company, and explains that although the brands may not be well-known here, the company had an 11.6 per cent share in America last year and was one of the fastest-growing companies. Dr Pepper, the oldest soft drink nationally distributed in the US, was created in 1885, a century after Jacob Scheppe perfected his process for manufacturing mineral water in Geneva.

In 1993 Cadbury Schweppes had just 4.9 per cent of the US market; combining with Dr Pepper/Seven-Up gave it a 16.3 per cent share of the world's largest soft-drinks market.

During the takeover, the project was given the code name "potato", because spud was an anagram of DP/SU, but the deal was not small potatoes. The total cost of buying the outstanding shares was £1.6 billion, with £1.1 billion funded by banks and £500 million from shareholders. The deal was completed in March this year. The case study looks at the strategic planning of Cadbury Schweppes and the company's vision that it can become the number one non-cola beverage company in the world.

The education packs have been developed after consultation with teachers who complained that material on business studies was soon out of date and contained fictitious examples of companies. Teachers wanted real examples of companies in the news.

Now that the first year of the project is complete, teachers are asked to evaluate the material in a questionnaire and make suggestions as to how it can be improved next year.

The *Times* 100 team will keep in touch with schools and colleges by E-mail. Further information can be obtained from *The Times* 100, Business Communications Centre, Ashley House, Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, LS23 6EA or (telephone 01937 541541).



An on-site fitness centre for Ford employees shown in the study pack

Contracts with British Gas must be made null and void

From Mr Keith Foster

Sir, It was with incredulity, indignation and infatuation that I read the headline "Customers may have to share British Gas loss" (November 11). As you state, British Gas has long-term take-or-pay contracts with North Sea gas producers, agreed when British Gas held the monopoly position for supplying customers in the UK.

When British Gas was privatised, one of the agreements was that it would continue to enjoy this monopoly for a further 20 years. This agreement has not been honoured.

The industrial market has been opened to competition and the British Gas share has dropped to 35 per cent. The domestic market is being opened progressively to compe-

tion. What was not reported is the discrepancy between the long-term contract price — 20p/therm — and the current spot price, 7p/therm.

Little wonder that the North Sea producers wish to enforce the current long-term contracts and the financial position of British Gas is so weak. I reflected on how a somewhat similar situation in 1973 was handled. As many of your readers will recollect, Opec imposed a substantial percentage increase in the price of crude oil.

The oil companies, many of whom are producers of North Sea gas today, who sold crude and products on long-term, fixed-price contracts, realised that their position was untenable. Therefore, they invoked *force majeure* and agreed new

contracts with their customers, including the then regional gas boards. The consequences were that the Western consumers paid more and the producers became wealthy overnight.

It seems to me that, now, we need a "force majeure" to insist that all existing contracts with British Gas are declared null and void and that new ones are agreed reflecting the current conditions. In that way, British Gas would not be compromised and, much more importantly, all the gas consumers in the UK could enjoy lower prices now.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH FOSTER,
Ash House,
Hog Lane,
Ashley Green,
Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

Building societies are failing nation in their rush to turn into banks

From Mr David M. Parkes

Sir, So the building societies are paying out £11 billion to members in their headlong rush to convert themselves into banks. As if we haven't enough banks already!

What a missed opportunity! The building society movement was established in the last century to encourage thrift and to enable ordinary people to acquire a roof over their heads without first having the requisite capital sum. Working expenses were kept to a minimum and most societies were essentially mutual friendly societies.

Times have changed and there is now an urgent need for an enlarged rented sector.

We are lagging way behind other developed countries, such as Germany and the USA.

If the Government were serious about injecting some life into the housing market, it should encourage the building societies to establish housing corporations offering houses at affordable rents. Matched funding from the Government would be an effective carrot and would provide help where it is really needed.

The building societies are failing the nation by diverting from their original *raison d'être*.

Their business is to provide housing at affordable houses. Cobblers should stick to their last.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. PARKES,
The Dover House,
Church Walk,
Wilmington,
Bristol.

Letters to the
Business and
Finance
section of
The Times
can be sent
by fax on
0171-782 5112.



Brown breaks grey orthodoxy

For the first time in years, Britain seems to be gearing up for a worthwhile debate about taxes. That may sound like a strange reaction to yesterday's speech by Gordon Brown, dismissed in advance as nothing more than "gimmicks" by the Institute of Fiscal Studies. But this instant judgment was quite wrong. For too long, politicians and fiscal experts have bamboozled the public into believing that tax policy should be judged by only two objectives: simplicity and the steady reduction of an arbitrary number called the "standard rate of tax".

Today, many Tory politicians believe that a cut in the standard rate offers their party its one slim hope of electoral survival, even though such a cut will only draw attention to the much bigger clandestine tax increases imposed since 1992 on the middle class. Gordon Brown's speech ought to make the Tories think again.

Far from being a fraud or a gimmick, Mr Brown's plan for a tapering tax structure, starting from a very low rate such as 10 per cent, offered an attractive alternative to the Tory view that the standard rate is the only thing that matters.

It also challenged the Treasury and IFS orthodoxy that tax systems should be made ever-simpler, with the smallest possible number of rates, allowances and income bands. And in contrast to the expropriative tax plan Labour published before the 1992 election, Mr Brown's alternative would redistribute income only gently, and over a long period of time.

Whether Mr Brown can turn the tables on the Tories and make taxes a "Labour issue" will largely depend on whether the Chancellor can think of something more imaginative to do in his Budget than merely cut the standard rate.

Two distinctively Tory policies, directed specifically at middle-class voters, come to mind. One would be to reform inheritance tax — at a minimum, by eliminating the seven-year rule which allows the really rich to put their assets in trust during their lifetimes without paying a penny of tax, while middle-class people who cannot afford to lose control of their assets before death

are taxed at 40 per cent. By abolishing the seven-year rule, the rate could probably be reduced to 15 per cent or less, without loss of revenue. Reform of this kind has repeatedly been considered, but always abandoned — largely because of the opposition of the life assurance industry, which coins money by devising avoidance schemes to take advantage of the iniquitous seven-year rule. It is surely time to defy this special pleading.

Another distinctive tax policy, with more of a populist appeal, would be to restore the value of the married couple's allowance. The Treasury, in its obsession with "fiscal neutrality", has cut this back almost to the point of abolition, turning Britain into the only major industrialised country with no significant tax privileges for marriage.

OECD figures show that the average single worker in Britain pays 26.5 per cent of his income in taxes and National Insurance contributions, putting him only marginally above the American worker, who pays 25.1 per cent, and far below the tax levels in European countries. But the taxes paid by a British married couple with one earner, at 24.1 per cent of gross income, are far above the levels not only in America (19.0 per cent) but also in France, Italy and Canada. In fact, married couples' rates are lower in every other G7 country apart from Germany (and even there couples enjoy a huge special relief, worth more than 10 per cent of pre-tax earnings).

To the Tories, the political case for tilting the tax system in favour of families ought to be compelling. The same should be true for a root-and-branch reform of inheritance tax. For Labour, the political advantages of opposing these policies may be equally clear. The question is not which side is right — that simply cannot be answered — but which party's tax package proves more appealing to its own potential supporters.

That kind of decision-making is what democratic politics is made for — and, with all due respect to the fiscal experts, the structure of taxation is a perfect issue for democracy to decide.

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Drive to get business down on the farms

By Rodney Hobson

A DATABASE of commercial property available in rural areas is planned by the Braeshall Rural Development Consultancy. If a pilot project run with Hereford & Worcester Business Link succeeds, the database will be extended nationwide.

The aim is to encourage investment from companies seeking rural properties and to stem the tide of business leaving rural areas.

Andrew Hale, who runs the consultancy, thought of the idea after researching what alternative uses farmers considered for surplus land and buildings.

Mr Hale found that 70 per cent wanted conversion to residential use to raise capital to invest in the core farming business. However, he found that councils were becoming more selective in granting residential planning permission, rejecting buildings of poor quality. Councils were more willing to give consent for modern farm buildings to be used for employment.

He says: "As the majority of farmers do not want to house their own alternative business ventures in these buildings, a need has been created for joint ventures between them and businesses seeking rural premises for relocation and start-ups."

The Hereford and Worcester property database will store details of property that farmers are willing to make available for employment use and details of businesses seeking premises.

Advice will be given to property owners on appropriate uses for land and buildings, the necessary planning procedure and the options available on letting, selling or setting up joint ventures. Data will be supplemented by information from farmers' professional advisers and local estate agents.

The system will be self-financing through a charge to landowners and businesses for storing and receiving information. European Union funding is being sought.

Mr Hale says: "It is possible that once the database is established in the trial area it will be enlarged and made available throughout the regional offices of business links to provide a national service."

Details: Freephone 0800 104010

Home-made sauce range spreads around the world

David Fanning talks to a couple who built a flourishing business on zest

Tim and Rina Clarke gave up their jobs ten years ago and pinned their future to a small jar of home-produced pasta sauce. Today the pair own and run Zest Foods, a speciality sauce-maker.

From sales of a few jars of pesto to the local delicatessen in Wadebridge in Cornwall, turnover has grown to more than £1.5 million, with net profits around 8 per cent. In five years, says Mr Clarke, 50, sales have increased by 30 per cent a year and he expects a 40 per cent annual growth over the next few years.

Zest Foods now produces a range of 40 sauces in jars, sachets and catering packs — a far cry from the days when pesto sauce, made from imported basil, was produced in a shed and labelled and packed on a kitchen table.

Tim Clarke always enjoyed making his own sauces and couldn't resist the opportunity to turn his amateur skills to commercial profit. He left his job as a graphic designer for a major printer to become his own boss. Rina, 48, left teaching and joined him.

"We started off with a £30 a week enterprise allowance," he recalls, "and a smallish overdraft with Lloyds Bank."

The business grew by leaps and bounds and within two years the Clarks were selling pesto sauce to outlets all over the country. By the end of 1987, the business had to move or die. Increasing sales were

putting immense strains on the couple's severely limited facilities. The problems of distributing nationwide from a town in Cornwall were huge.

"We looked around for suitable sites and eventually chose Newton in Powys," said Tim. The Development Board for Rural Wales offered an attractive relocation package.

Three years after moving to Newtown in January 1988, the business again needed larger premises. And again another three years later. In July 1994, the company leased a further factory and now operates from two sites on an industrial estate.

Zest supplies delicatessens and shops throughout Britain and exports to other European countries, the United States and Australia. Tim Clarke is proud of the wide acceptance of Zest products amongst quality retailers.

"You'll find Zest sauces on the shelves at Harrods, Sainsbury's, and Tesco," he says. "We are now an approved supplier to Heinz. Also, we have introduced an innovative catering pack for quantity users like airline and ferry operators, restaurants and hotels."

The division of responsibilities works well, but both realise that the rate of growth calls for additional management and boardroom resources. To this end, two non-executive directors are to be appointed.



Tim and Rina Clarke, suppliers of speciality sauces, at their depot

Small firms hailed as way to prosperous times for rural Wales

By Iola Smith

STIMULATING the small business sector is the key to economic growth in rural Wales, according to the region's development board.

In its submission to the Welsh Office's White Paper on rural Wales, the board outlines numerous regeneration proposals that would boost the countryside's performance in the run-up to the millennium.

They include an environment, agriculture and food strategy, a telecommunications initiative and a rural charter. The former would seek to capitalise on the resources of wood, wind, water and agriculture to create wealth and employment.

The planning system should ensure that these developments take place in harmony with landscape. For example, it is recommended that small food-processing companies be established in agricultural villages so that they are as close as possible to the farms that provide their raw materials.

Good telecommunication links are essential if small businesses are to overcome the distance disadvantages of rural areas. Therefore, the board wishes to improve information technology facilities by attracting to the countryside more small businesses specialising in this sector.

Although inward investment is beginning to make an impact in the area, economic development depends on strengthening indigenous small firms, the board says.

Priorities should be a network of advice sectors; a training partnership involving training and enterprise councils, businesses and the University of Wales in improving workers' skills; and a drive to

stimulate business start-ups in agricultural villages.

The board is adamant that continuing public-sector investment is vital, particularly in the construction of factories and commercial premises.

These are needed, it says, around market towns because the region has a low manufacturing base. Only 15 per cent of the rural workforce is employed in manufacturing, against 24 per cent nationwide. This means that the sector is fragile and vulnerable to cyclical downturns in the economy.

The board recommends refurbishment of rural towns. Local shops should be supported, perhaps with capital grants being offered to improve premises and business efficiency. These grants could be extended to the pillars of village life, the garage and the pub. The existing post office network should be retained throughout.

Transport improvements, such as extending the post-bus service, and adequate provision of housing are also necessary if new firms are to be attracted to the area.

To ensure that economic development takes place in parallel with community development, the board urges the creation of a rural charter. This would set out the minimum standards expected of public-sector organisations operating in the countryside.

The hope is that the Welsh rural White Paper will accelerate the diversification of the rural economy.

That should result in increasing business start-ups, more small businesses moving in, and the occasional inward investor establishing its UK headquarters in the Welsh countryside.



"They're lucky they can find time to have children!"

Entries have opened for the 1996 Livewire awards for entrepreneurs aged 16 to 25 who have started businesses since February 1. Prizes total nearly £200,000 and there is a new prize of a year's unlimited first-class rail travel. Information and entry forms from 0345 573252 or Livewire, Freepost NT 805, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1BR. Closing date is January 31.

Lloyds Bank will cut charges to small businesses from January 10. The charge for each transaction

will be reduced from 65p to 63p. The banking package for businesses in their first year has been improved, with the removal of the £100 overdraft limit before charges are imposed. The first year's free banking has been extended to start-ups with turnover of up to £1 million and existing businesses with turnover of up to £50,000 that switch to Lloyds.

The Institute of Directors has published a guide for small businesses on raising finance for growth. Copies of *A Director's Guide to Financing Growth* costs £9.95 from the Book Department, Mountbarrrow House, 6-20 Elizabeth Street, London SW1W 9RB.

The Forum of Private Business has proposed a professional body

for consultants who advise on the availability of grants after complaints about dubious consultants preying on small firms. The FPB has issued its 24,000 members with guidelines on responding to unsolicited approaches by grant-finding consultants.

Guidelines on cutting customers' waiting times, managing stock

levels and reducing costs will be given at a workshop by the Greater London Supply Chain Network on November 28. Places for the workshop, at the South London Training and Enterprise Council's Bromley offices, cost £40 plus VAT. Contact: 0181-941 2218.

Kingston Smith, chartered accountants, has become joint national sponsor of Linc, the local investment networking company that matches potential investors with firms seeking equity finance.

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Equities fail to hold early pace

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
BANKS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
DISTRIBUTORS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
BREWERIES							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
ELECTRICITY							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
ELECTRONIC & ELECT							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
BUILDING MATERIALS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
BUSINESS SERVICES							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
ENGINEERING VEHICLES							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
FOOD MANUFACTURERS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
HEALTHCARE							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
HOUSEHOLD GOODS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
INSURANCE							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
LEISURE & HOTELS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
MINING							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
MEDIA							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
PROPERTY							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
PRINTING & PAPER							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
RETAILERS, FOOD							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
RETAILERS, GENERAL							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
SHORTS (under 5 years)							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
LONGS (over 15 years)							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
UNDATED							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
INDEX-LINKED							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
WATER							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
PHARMACEUTICALS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
SUPPORT SERVICES							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
TEXTILES & APPAREL							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
TRANSPORT							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
OTHER FINANCIAL							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
RETAILERS, FOOD							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E

1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
RETAILERS, GENERAL							
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1995	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	P/E





OPERA 1

Schoenberg's
*Moses und
Aron* gives
Paris a
glorious night
of music drama



OPERA 2

At Covent Garden
a fine young
tenor warms up
Giordani's
Fedora
for Domingo

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Paul Daniel brings
a cool head to
Huddersfield,
as the premieres
start to roll
at the festival



TOMORROW

The great Times
Christmas panto
guide: an
indispensable aid
to seasonal cheer.
Oh yes it is!

OPERA: Maximum effect from minimal staging in Paris; good singing masks a poor plot in London

Moses stripped to the essential

It has been a good autumn for opera of the interwar period. Six weeks ago the Netherlands Opera staged its no-expense-spared production of *Moses und Aron*, which is bound for Salzburg next year. Last week the Royal Opera mounted its musically impeccable *Mathis der Maler*, in which Hindemith finds a quite different musical way forward in the post-Wagner era, and ponders problems of non-communication not dissimilar to those in Schoenberg's unfinished opera.

And also last week, the Théâtre Musical de Paris was performing its own new production of *Moses at the Châtelet*. While it would be an exaggeration to say that one might almost have been seeing a different opera, it was certainly a case of chalk and cheese, and served to increase admiration for Schoenberg's unique vision.

In Amsterdam, Peter Stein played the text with near-slavish realism. At the Châtelet, Herbert Wernicke — producer, designer and lighting man — took a diametrically opposite approach: not a horse to be seen, the four Naked Virgins clothed from head to foot, the Burning Bush firmly off-stage. His permanent set was a skyscraper tilted backwards, with a chorus in dinner jackets and black frocks popping out of the windows and holding their scores.

Moses, Aaron and the soloists were all in black tie and white-face, performing minimally on an acting area in front of the chorus that was part yellow desert pathway, part pile of books. What visual variety there was came from the washes of strong colour in Wernicke's lighting plot.

Aaron performed no conjuring tricks to add consumer-appeal to Moses's abstractions, and there was no Golden Calf: instead, the company donned horned half-masks, as did Moses, who was on stage throughout. The sight of the prophet trying vainly to shake his head free of the mask was just one of several powerful images replacing Stein's naturalism, and Aaron's mimed use of a megaphone for his spin-doctoring was another.

This may sound unpromising, as if confirming the suspicion that *Moses* is as much an oratorio as an opera.

Moses und Aron
Châtelet
Eugene Onegin
Bastille

but the overall effect was quite the opposite, concentrating the mind firmly on the arguments in the text and its inherent drama. And it would be to ignore what was going on in the pit.

After Amsterdam I wondered rhetorically whether Boulez's conducting was not a touch too analytical. The question was answered decisively in Paris. It would be idle to pretend that our own Philharmonia matched the sheer finesse of the Concertgebouw's playing, but under Christoph von Dohnányi's inspired direction they made it plain that they were accompanying a drama, not a lecture in philosophy. The sound was full-blooded and immediate, not etiolated, the textures brilliantly coloured rather than "respectably" ironed-out.

Dohnányi's pacing was almost traditionally operatic — the piece bowed along with unstoppable theatrical momentum. The horror of the orgy came from the pit, not from mollocking on stage. Above all, Dohnányi found the flashes of wit in the piece: "You will feed on the purity of thought," says Moses optimistically, and Aaron answers with a saucy little waltz, played with cheeky delicacy. Schoenberg was not born in Vienna for nothing.

Philip Langridge's Aaron was a tour de force: truculent, sleazy, smug and sung with bewitching lyrical ease, a perfect partner to Aage Haugland's great brooding presence as Moses.

The latter's final line — "Oh word, thou word that I lack" — spoke of towering personal tragedy, as much, you might argue, the composer's as his protagonist's; but never before have I heard Schoenberg's "word" conveyed so vividly. This was no longer an "important" or a "problem" piece; it was, thanks to Dohnányi, living, pulsating 20th-century drama.

It was in sad contrast to what was playing at the Bastille last week, a chic, self-congratulatory staging of



Philip Langridge's Aaron (right), is "a tour de force, truculent, sleazy, smug, a perfect partner to Aage Haugland's great, brooding presence as Moses"

Eugene Onegin first seen two years ago in Cologne, on which subject the programme was strangely silent (*"nouvelle production"*, it said, *tout court*).

We know that producers do not have to follow century-old stage directions any more, but Willy Decker made it a point of honour to disregard every single one, to the extent of inserting an interval in the middle of the second act and subtly altering characters' motivation. Turning Tatyana's name-day dance into an extended cabaret turn for M. Triquet was a particularly nasty idea.

There was good heart-on-sleeve conducting from Alexander Anissimov, and excellent singing from Anthony Michaels-Moore in the title role and Kurt Moll as Grenin. The rest had better be silence.

RODNEY MILNES

A tip of the hat to the tenor

Fedora
Covent Garden

Not everybody likes *Fedora*. Rodney Milnes, for instance, who reviewed this production in *The Times* when it was new to Covent Garden last year, thinks it the worst opera ever written — a conviction shaken only by exposure to Mascagni's *Iris*. Yet Giordano's verismo melodrama retains a firm place on the fringes of the repertoire, enjoying lavish revivals in major international houses while more deserving rarities make do (at best) with the odd small-scale performance at some enterprising specialist festival.

Fedora's appeal is certainly not dramatic. The plot — love, assassination and foreign travel, against a dim background of revolutionary in-

trigue — has little to commend it, as even Giordano may have realised, to judge by the way he belted through its twists and turns. Nor are the musical attractions compelling, although the score is atmospheric enough, with emotive effects often skilfully deployed.

The credit, such as it is, for *Fedora's* survival must go to the singers who continue to be drawn to its two principal roles. Unlike as it may seem, this is one of opera's star vehicles.

The star in the current Covent Garden revival of Lamberto Puggelli's stylish,

mainly monochrome production — and the justification for some starchy ticket prices — is Plácido Domingo, who gives the first of four performances tonight (to be reviewed by John Higgins on Thursday).

But on Saturday, for the opening night of the run, prices were lower and the tenor was the young Argentinian José Cura, who made his Royal Opera debut in similar circumstances in June, alternating with Domingo in *Stiffelio*. He has a vivid stage presence and shrewd dramatic intelligence, which he used to add convincing dignity and warmth to an essentially two-dimensional character. He also has a voice of real distinction — dry, slightly metallic, not always refined,

but ardent and authentically heroic, with ringing top notes. He returns for the last night of the run on December 2.

His ardour was matched by the *Fedora* of the Russian soprano Maria Guleghina, making a welcome and overdue Covent Garden debut. Passionate, intense, with lustrious tone and impressive power, she too brought to her role a conviction and credibility it hardly deserves. The same commitment was evident in nicely detailed cameos from a large supporting cast — a tribute to the efforts of the revival director, David Edwards, and to the poised, persuasive conducting of Edward Downes.

IAN BRUNSKILL

HUDDERSFIELD: Britain's top new-music festival swings into action

Complexity is back in fashion

The tougher Richard Steinitz makes it, the more his audience likes it. Dillon, Ferneyhough, Nono, Kagel? Fine! Just pass me my woolly hat and I'll be there. They are at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival in such numbers that concerts are regularly selling out, queues are forming for returns, and composers are being heard more positively than possibly ever before.

In James Dillon's case, at least, it is about time. He has been featured at Huddersfield before, 12 years ago, and he was strongly represented at Musica Nova in Glasgow four years after that, but without endearing himself on either occasion to a public which was then turning against his kind of uncompromising, all-out complexity.

Something of the sullen sound of his music from that period was recalled at the weekend in a Music Projects programme labelled *Portrait of James Dillon*. In spite of the expert direction of Richard Bernas, the concert served to confirm what heavy going *Überschreiten* is and how obscure the motivation of *La femme invisible*. Alongside admirably lucid performances of Webern's Six Songs, Op 14, and Britten's *Nenia*, beautifully sung by Alison Wells, the Dillon profile seemed darker than ever.

Then came *Accroche Note*, an irresistibly personable group from Strasbourg which finds Dillon's music more congenial than most of its British counterparts and which clearly, in its turn, has charmed several layers away from the extra-thick textual protection he used to wrap round his ideas.

Evolution du vol, which was written for *Accroche Note* two or three years ago, is a happy, sensual celebration of

the personalities in the ensemble — not least that of its stylistic soprano, Françoise Kubler — expressed in the intimate terms of solos, duets and a septet, this last dying away to the sound of a musical box running down on a phrase from a Tchaikovsky waltz. Whistling the waltz was probably not the authentic reaction but at least it carried the concert on to the street outside.

The new Dillon work scheduled for the Accroche Note concert was unfortunately not ready on time. But after that disarming glimpse of the Dil-

lon personality in the afternoon the English Northern Philharmonia's revival of the notoriously problematic *Helle Nacht* in the evening was as good as a first performance.

Paul Daniel's remarkably clear, superbly controlled interpretation would have been a revelation anyway, not so much perhaps in sustaining a perceptible continuity as in profiling those events which from time to time shed a dramatically brilliant light on the turbulent darkness of this profoundly worrying piece.

That was only one of several

challenges taken on by Daniel and the ENP in an exceptionally demanding programme in Huddersfield Town Hall. There was also the first British performance of *The Sands* by the veteran minimalist Terry Riley, who has infinite resources of amusing melody and no idea when to stop. Tippett's early and quite extraordinary encounter with Rachmaninov in his *Fantasia on a Theme of Handel* (with Ronan Magill the heroic piano soloist) and the same composer's late and visionary *The Rose Lake*.

It is difficult to imagine any other orchestra prepared to take on such a programme, let alone perform it so persuasively and with such unfailing freshness.

GERALD LARNER

BARRY MILLINGTON



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■ VISUAL ART 1

Given her due at last: at 84, sculptor Louise Bourgeois enjoys her first British retrospective



■ VISUAL ART 2

Revolutions recalled in tranquility: a new show celebrates Ian Hamilton Finlay

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

From Olympics to outbreak: modern life observed in riotous colour by Wilhelmina Barns-Graham



■ VISUAL ART 4

... while the wild fantasies of "A. Oscar" reveal a painter of unmistakably British eccentricity

Richard Cork on the stunning first British retrospective devoted to the venerable Louise Bourgeois; plus other shows

At home with the haunted

Why has Louise Bourgeois taken so long to achieve her present eminence? At the age of 84 she is holding her first British retrospective at Oxford's Museum of Modern Art. It is a major event, but a decade ago Bourgeois was scarcely known in this country. Even America, where she has lived since 1938, was slow to recognise her. Only in 1962 did the Museum of Modern Art in New York stage a large survey and begin, finally, to establish her stature.

Part of the problem probably lies in her gender. Bourgeois was fortunate enough to arrive in New York at an exciting moment, when the city superseded Paris as the foremost capital for Western art. But the painters and sculptors there did not take female artists very seriously. In the macho spirit of the period men played the heroic role in the studio. Women were expected to be subordinate, and none of them gained the reputations enjoyed by Pollock, de Kooning, Rothko and the rest.

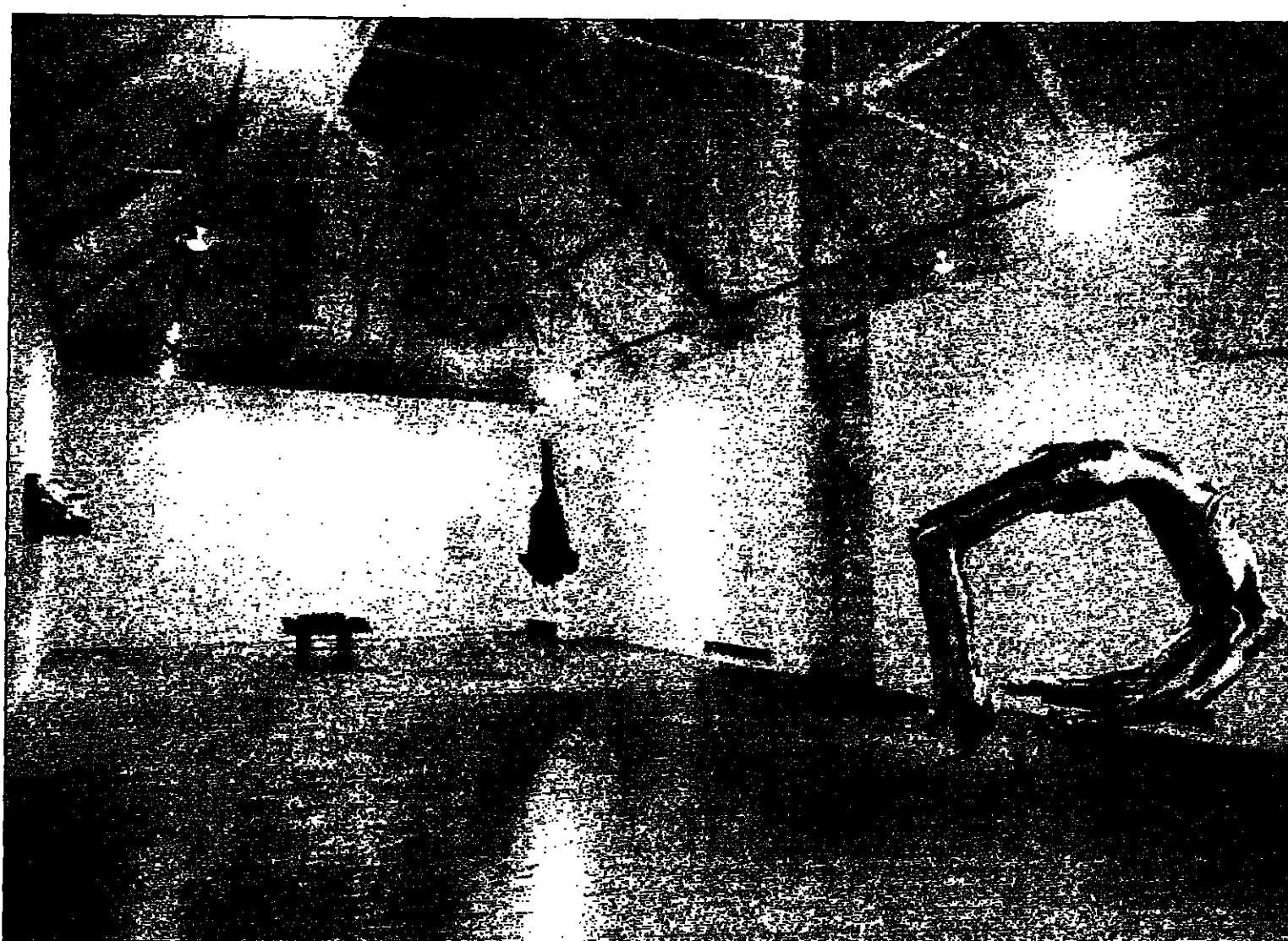
Bourgeois left her native France for an excellent reason: she married the distinguished American art historian Robert Goldwater. The onset of the Second World War a year after she settled in New York must have made her feel grateful to escape the Nazi invasion. Many of the artists she had admired in Paris, including her teacher Léger, fled across the Atlantic as well. So Bourgeois soon had good reason to feel at home in New York, stimulated by the exceptional vitality and cosmopolitanism of the city's burgeoning avant-garde circle.

All the evidence suggests, however, that she felt marooned. The earliest work on view at Oxford was produced in the late 1940s, and it conveys a powerful sense of isolation. The tall, emaciated figures, displayed at her first one-person show in New York, speak of frailty and loss. Made from rough poles and planks, they seem scarcely able to stay upright.

Bourgeois' readiness to arrive at extreme simplification and her respect for the innate character of her materials suggest that Brancusi had been a key influence during her years in Paris. Giacometti's emaciated figures may also have impressed her. All the same, a singular vision is already apparent. Her totemic figures lack arms, and their absence increases the air of helplessness.

But, alongside this inability to defend themselves, they show signs of surprising resilience. Even the most stripped and flattened figure is enlivened by pale blue striations, which offset the blankness of the face above them. In the other figures, the overall emphasis on elongation is alleviated, in places, by unexpected protuberances. Although far less generous than the swellings which Bourgeois would explore later, they proclaim her interest in the obduracy of sensual, organic growth.

The tension between these two extremes — fearful attenuation and stubborn ripeness — went on to



In the aptly titled sculpture *Age of Anxiety* (foreground), "Bourgeois forces us to see our own reflection in the body she has made"

nourish all her finest work. At this early stage, however, the sense of confinement prevails. In a small yet immensely potent ink drawing of 1947, *Femme Maison*, Bourgeois gave vent to a feeling of unbearable entrapment. The naked woman who dominates the image is only visible below her waist, the upper half of her body being enclosed in a large, many-windowed house. Two arms protrude from its sides, one waving and the other dangling. They both reinforce the mood of repression, stifling enough to border on panic.

No eyes can be discerned in the apertures punctuating the house's facade. The building shuts the woman away from the world outside and no amount of arm-gesturing can restore her lost contact. The woman's identity has been swallowed up in a domesticity that seems tailor-made. Confining it may be, but she cannot do without her claustrophobic home.

Later on, especially after Bourgeois produced a print version of *Femme Maison* in 1964, it became a feminist icon. And, in one respect, it does reflect the artist's perception of the conflict in her adult mind between the rival demands of married life and

a more independent existence. But her interest in the house also stems from a deeper obsession with childhood memories. The size of the building in *Femme Maison* reflects that of Bourgeois' family home at Choisy-le-Roi. She has continued to ruminate on its significance throughout her career, and even in 1947 the artist began to explore its interior spaces as well.

In an outstanding print called *He Disappeared Into Complete Silence*, Bourgeois leads us into a bare room. Four rudimentary ladders hang from the raftered ceiling, one of them seeming to rest on the equally austere floorboards. They offer the promise of ascent, but lead nowhere. Once again Bourgeois presents the home as a site of imprisonment. Although a window at the side holds out the promise of escape, the likelihood that the room is an attic suggests that exit would be perilous.

Bourgeois managed to leave Choisy-le-Roi, but not before she had been seared by her life there. Although her mother provided a stable foundation, she was often ill and died in 1932.

Long before then, her philandering husband kept as his mistress the English tutor, Sadie, who lived with the family for a decade. Bourgeois was profoundly unsettled by his betrayal. The emotional complications involved in having three parental figures were bewildering, and help to explain why her work has returned incessantly to rooms redolent of childhood anxieties.

At Oxford the image of a lair takes many different forms. The house appears, at its most minimal, as a severely smooth and simplified *Maison* in austere white plaster. An entrance is visible but no exit, and the entire structure has a forbidding air. Then, in a small bronze, the lair becomes a pyramid punctured by a large hole at the front. Windows are included this time, along with a far smaller hole at the back. But it still looks ominous, and Bourgeois' decision to model the sculpture in a rough, almost pummeled, way hints at brutality within. Violence is finally given open expression in *Labyrinthine Tower*, which uncoils in the air like a predatory creature. It terminates in a fist-like form, ready to hit.

A sense of danger energises all of

Bourgeois' finest work. At its most spectacular, the Oxford show boasts a colossal spider presiding over the largest upstairs gallery like an apparition from an *Alien* movie. The white egg lodged in the spider's belly cage implies that Bourgeois believes in the creature's capacity to spawn an infinite progeny.

But the most moving exhibit is found at the other end of the upstairs floor. Walking past a relief in pink rubber crammed with female breasts, and a rough-hewn slab where penile forms thrust upwards in polished profusion, we eventually arrive at *The Age of Anxiety*. Swaying slightly in space, the headless body of a woman hangs from the roof. Her back is arched as if in acute pain, and her splayed fingers stretch towards the exposed soles of her feet. The gleaming surface of the sculpture is deceptive at first, lulling us into imagining that such a lustrous figure could not be suffering too much. But then we realise that Bourgeois forces us to see our own reflection in the body she has made.

● Louise Bourgeois at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (01865 722733) until Dec 31

AROUND THE GALLERIES

The most extraordinary thing about the new show of work by Wilhelmina Barns-Graham — apart from its being made up entirely of brand-new work — is that it shows the 83-year-old artist, with self-evident relish, looking at new things and going off in completely new directions. During the three years since her last one-woman show in London she has been looking at, for example, the fireworks at the closing of the Barcelona Olympics, an epidemic of bushfires in the Australian outback, and the decorations for VE-Day. All of them have caught her attention: all have been reflected in her work.

For some years now Barns-Graham has been hovering on the borderline of representation and abstraction, sometimes, as in her Llanarua landscapes, inclining slightly towards the figurative, sometimes slipping completely away from it. But even her most decisively abstract works are always abstracted from something, and she does not hesitate to tell us what, if we are interested. Several gouaches in the present show are categorised as wind or fire paintings, while others, which consist largely of circles and curves, are labelled "Constellation Series". But the traces of the basic inspiration are often more substantial than a matter of labelling.

Art First, 9 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 0386) until Nov 30

from the sophisticated naivety of the late Thirties to the obsession with the story of El Cid in the early Eighties, there is a wild and wayward fantasy and a sly sense of humour. If this is related to any movement, it is to the great tradition of British nonsense.

Belgrave Gallery, 53 Englands Lane, NW3 (0171-722 5150) until Friday

□ Born in 1927, Fred Williams was a few significant years younger than what we think of as the classic generation of modern Australian artists, represented by Nolan, Arthur Boyd, Dobell and Drysdale. His formation was different: after studying in Australia he came to London in 1951, and spent the next six years at Chelsea School of Art and the Central School, but more importantly working for a prominent picture framer and learning his craft from close observation. The twin shows at Marlborough, of paintings and of graphics, do not go back as far as the London etchings, many of which were influenced by Sickert, but they do show how rapidly Williams developed his own unmistakable style after he got back to Australia in 1957. Never, it seems, a joiner of movements (though apparently he was upset not to be asked), his self-definition turned on his discovery of the Australian landscape, at first in the bushlands of New South Wales, then in the granite hills near Geelong, and finally, after 1967, in the real outback. Gradually he pushed nearer and nearer to abstraction, but though at first glance several of the paintings here look like rather casually assembled abstracts, closer inspection proves them to be meticulously constructed records of specific landscapes. Though it has taken time for Williams' work to be appreciated outside Australia, since his death in 1982 he has come to look like the finest Australian painter of the 20th century.

Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-629 5161) until Dec 2

□ Leslie Worth is also primarily a landscape painter, but a much more conventional one than Williams. The major retrospective he is accorded at the Banksie Gallery (he is a past president of the Royal Watercolour Society) coincides with the publication of Michael Spender's book *The Paintings of Leslie Worth (David and Charles, £40)*, and demonstrates, if demonstration be needed, that the English watercolour tradition is very much alive. Banksie Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, SE1 (0171-928 7321) until Sunday

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

The Scottish artist Ian Hamilton Finlay began his career as a poet and short story writer. Since the 1960s, however, he has become increasingly recognised within the world of visual art. A peculiar feature of this recognition, in view of Finlay's preoccupation with Britain's landscape tradition, is that it is strongest away from these shores.

The occasion of his 70th birthday sees no change in this circumstance, and it is in Hamburg, at the Deichtorhallen, that one finds a thoughtful retrospective survey of the past 30 years' work. The exhibition opens with a large dry-stone wall into which are set a series of metal plaques recording the names, ages and occupations of those victims of the guillotine who are commemorated in Paris's Picpus cemetery. At once, Finlay's devotion to the pastoral and his interest in the French Revolution are brought together.

Finlay makes repeated reference to certain historical periods: not only the 1789 Revolution and its aftermath, but also the ancient Greece of the pre-Socratic philosophers and the Second World War. The ideas and imagery of all three speak of the struggle between order and chaos. By

Object lessons in the poet's art

Michael Archer on a retrospective marking the 70th birthday of one of Britain's most versatile artists

extension they are employed in Finlay's art to acknowledge a requirement for reflective, virtuous and principled action, since it is more often than not human failing rather than uncontrolled nature that is responsible for tragedy.

Thus we find the smokestacks of Japanese warships likened to classical columns, rusticated masonry compared to camouflage patterns, packets of wildflower seeds spelling out "REVOLUTION, ELUQUENCE and TRANSPARENCY" in three-foot high letters, and the words of Heraclitus carved calligraphically into blocks of stone.

In 1981, Finlay co-founded the Wild Hawthorn Press. The intention at the time was to publish contemporary poetry, particularly that strand known as concrete poetry, a laconic form in which there was close unity between a word, its meaning and its typographic and visual treat-

ment on the page. Over the years, the press has come to concentrate entirely on Finlay's own considerable output. As some measure of his prolific nature, the current birthday display of only those cards, booklets, pamphlets and other publications produced during the 1990s fills London's Victoria Miro gallery.

The press forms just one part of an output that is remarkable for its variety. There are poems and texts printed in a variety of ways, prints, photographs, bronze, stone and wooden sculptures, ceramics, objects, furniture, tapestries, large-scale public works. Even now, though, 30 years on, Finlay continues to refer to himself in conversation as a poet.

Each object can be understood as a realisation of a poetic text, a version or rendition of it. In all instances it is made not by Finlay himself but by a collaborator skilled in



Finlay: visual artist who describes himself as a poet

a particular technique. Besides this range of things there is the abiding work of Finlay's career, his garden at Stonypath in the Pentland Hills near Edinburgh, seen in Hamburg in a sequence of large black and white photographs.

As Finlay himself says, his ability, if he has one, is as a composer. He can arrange things, find an order, make connections, and his garden is such a composition. A trust

has recently been set up to ensure its upkeep and conservation.

Began in the late 1960s when he moved with his family into an oldcroft, it now covers several acres of the surrounding land. Ponds, lakes, a sunken garden, woodland paths, groves dedicated to mythological figures, an outhouse transformed into a temple to Apollo and the muses: all this has been created within a cultivated micro-

cosm of the larger world beyond the garden's boundaries.

Finlay sees the difficulties of the virtuous life, the problems of compromise, and the hardships of truth to principle starkly expressed in the activities of Robespierre and his Committee for Public Safety. More than anything they provide a touchstone for his central concern with propriety in the constantly shifting relationship between humans and their world.

It is Saint-Just, a member of the committee, whose words, "The Present Order is the Disorder of the Future", are carved into the 11 large stone blocks that sit on the hillside above Finlay's house. And it is another statement taken from Saint-Just that appears on a carved panel in more than one European language in the Hamburg exhibition: "The native land is not the land itself, it is the community of affections."

The same multilingual text will soon be set outside the new Hamburg Kunstverein as a more permanent and public exhortation to rational discourse between peoples.

● Deichtorhallen, Deichtorstrasse 1-2, 20095 Hamburg (00 49 40 32 37 35), until Nov 26; Victoria Miro Gallery, 21 Cork St, London W1 (0171-734 5082), to Nov 30

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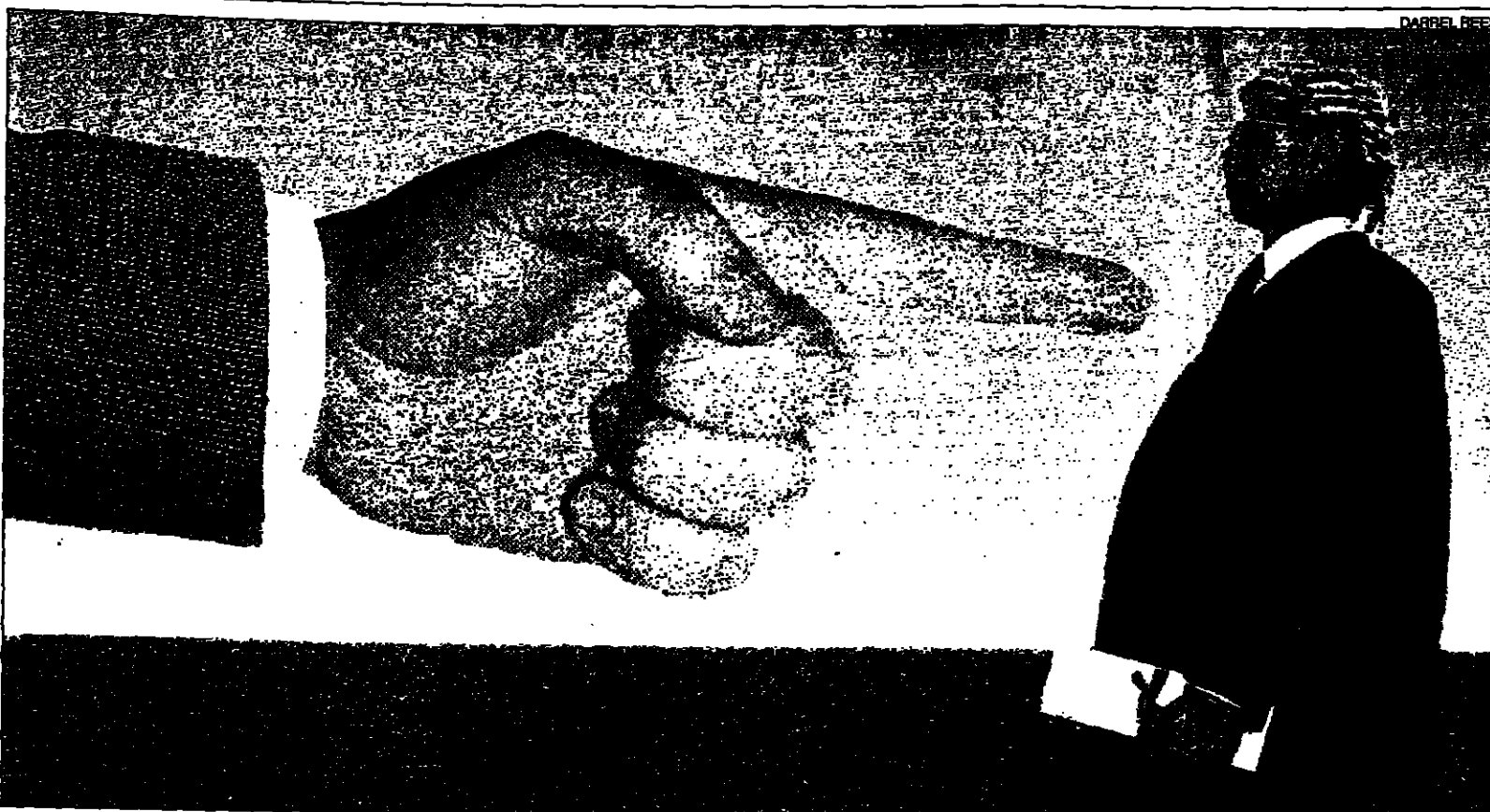
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Bringing the Bar to book

The days of self-regulation are drawing to a close, the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee said this month. MPs were not referring to regulation of lawyers; but they might as well have been.

The signs are all too clear. Politicians attack judges for being soft on sentencing and lawyers for helping "criminals" to get off. The National Consumer Council, meanwhile, proposes a Government quango to tackle complaints against solicitors and barristers — a lay-dominated system for which lawyers would have to pay. The Legal Services Ombudsman has criticised the Bar's complaints system, which is concerned only with grave cases of professional misconduct.

But showing that the Bar is prepared to regulate responsibly in the interests of the public, as well as its own, is just one reason for adopting the complaints system. Tonight, if we want to continue to regulate our own affairs — as an independent profession should — we must show we are not prepared to shield the incompetent, the careless, the arrogant or the rude.

There are two other reasons for adopting the scheme. First, in the new competitive world where solicitors can do what once only barristers could, the

Peter Goldsmith QC urges barristers to adopt a complaints scheme tonight

Bar's future depends on our insistence on quality. The Bar will survive because of its excellence. But excellence must not be taken for granted. One shoddy piece of work lets us all down. Secondly, it is simply right to adopt it if a client suffers inadequate professional service, justice demands we do something about it, not shrug it off as an inconvenience.

The proposed scheme is balanced. It balances the legitimate interests of clients with the understandable concerns of barristers. Further safeguards have been included, after representations by the Criminal Bar Association and others. The definition of "inadequate professional services" has been broadened to take into account all the circumstances (no unfair £2,000 fines for £30 briefs) and compensation to be paid only where the complainant can demonstrate loss. The scheme will be reviewed in 12 months to ensure it is working fairly for all.

What, then, do opponents say? First, that barristers will receive a flood of unjustified complaints and be unable to withstand the client's pressure to do

the wrong thing for fear of a complaint. Both arguments are bad and show little confidence in a barrister's abilities and qualities. The scheme contains strong safeguards against frivolous complaints being pursued. A robust lay commissioner will be encouraged to throw out "try-ons". The word will soon get round that lodging a frivolous complaint that your counsel failed to say good morning is a waste of paper.

Complaints cannot be brought over those areas of work which the law protects under "advocates' immunity". This immunity is not for the privilege of advocates, but to prevent cases being relitigated under the guise of a complaint. It is right that this immunity should stay and it will cover what happens in court and much that happens outside. It covers advice on a plea of guilty as well as on whether the defendant should give evidence.

Secondly, opponents say the scheme does grave injustice to the Bar. But it requires nothing not already required by the Code of Conduct: barristers are

already obliged "... (to) be courteous and act promptly, conscientiously, diligently and with reasonable competence". And the proposed complaints committee and adjudication panel — if a complaint gets that far — will have strong barrister membership, who know what is right for a barrister to do. No one can be put under pressure, for example, to ask witnesses embarrassing but irrelevant questions simply because the client demands it.

It is wrong to suggest that barristers who stand up to difficult judges and opponents daily cannot do their duty for fear of an unjustified complaint. There is no reason to reject this scheme except an unwillingness to recognise the real world, where professionals have a responsibility to provide adequate services.

The competent and careful have nothing to fear. But if we reject it, we will have no ground for complaint if the Government is persuaded to impose an expensive, bureaucratic scheme in which we have little influence.

● Peter Goldsmith, QC, is the Bar chairman.

● The meeting for all barristers to debate and vote on the complaints scheme is at 6.30 tonight at Friends Meeting House, 171-173 Euston Road (Tube: Euston).

Shooting the umpire is not cricket

At the end of September, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, expressed the Government's anger at the "ludicrous" decision of the European Court of Human Rights by ten votes to nine that the United Kingdom had violated the right to life of three IRA terrorists shot by the SAS in Gibraltar in 1988. The *Daily Mail* described the rulings of the court as "veering crankily from the tragic to the farcical". The *Sun* printed the telephone and fax numbers of the court so that readers could "tell these loony judges what you think". Whitehall sources suggested that the Government would consider not renewing in January the right of individuals to bring claims in Strasbourg.

Now that tempers have cooled a little, ministers will have been reminded that the United Kingdom recently ratified Protocol No 11 to the Convention on Human Rights. When it comes into force (which will occur when all contracting states ratify its terms), the eleventh protocol will improve the procedures in Strasbourg, and will make permanent the acceptance of the right to individual petition. The United Kingdom cannot sensibly now act in a manner inconsistent with its own recent act of ratification. In any event, a rational assessment of the performance of the European Court must depend on its general record, and not on the merits or otherwise of one highly controversial Gibraltar decision.

The convention grew out of Europe's postwar disgust with itself for having accommodated fascism, and its determination to create judicial mechanisms to protect basic freedoms from governments that might again be tempted to win popularity by policies that exploit unpopular minorities. Both Labour and Conservative politicians from the United Kingdom played a leading role in creating the convention. For that reason, the entrance to the new court building — which opened earlier this year — is in a street named after Ernest Bevin.

For disappointed litigants to announce that they will be "taking [their] case to the European Court" is now a familiar feature of our legal system. Even Rumpole of the Bailey argues a case in Strasbourg in one of John Mortimer's latest, excellent collection of stories (*Rumpole and the Angel of Death*, Viking, £15) — although the passage of only one year before his client's case is heard by the European Court credits the Strasbourg machinery with an efficiency to which it can only aspire.

When the great American judge, Learned Hand, visited the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague in 1929, he was

unimpressed. "One judge spent his time writing poetry — he was a Frenchman," he said. "Another went to sleep, an old Dutchman." The European Court (and the European Commission of Human Rights, the lower judicial body) have achieved higher standards. To develop a novel jurisdiction in which an international tribunal has power to judge the treatment accorded by a state to its own nationals required legal creativity and large measures of political sensitivity.

By their decisions, the court and the commission have substantially improved the fairness and tolerance shown by the governments of European nations, while rightly recognising that states enjoy a margin of appreciation, or discretion, in their decisions.

The European Court has not always made the right decision. (The dissenting opinion in the Gibraltar case is much more persuasive than the judgment of the majority of the court.) But what judge (or politician) can claim to be infallible? The contribution of the court is, in any event, much greater than the sum of its individual decisions. As more states from the east join the Council of Europe, the court plays a significant role in setting the standards for nations emerging into democracy. The distinction of the court has ensured that its judgments influence the decisions of the Supreme Courts of many Commonwealth countries.

Politicians seeking to understand the Strasbourg machinery — and lawyers advising clients — have no excuse for ignorance. *Law of the European Convention on Human Rights* (Butterworths, £27.95) by Professor David Harris, of the University of Nottingham, Michael O'Boyle, senior legal officer in the European Court, and Colin Warbrick, senior lecturer at Durham University, now supplies a comprehensive, easy-to-read guide to decisions under the convention and its protocols, article by article, as well as explaining the history, and proposed developments, of the jurisdiction.

There is a strong case for restricting politicians' freedom of expression on the subject of the European Court until they have read Harris, O'Boyle and Warbrick's book.

Like the England cricket team, government lawyers occasionally lose matches abroad. Sometimes the result depends on a dubious decision by the umpires. But for our Government to respond by abusing the umpires and threatening to play only at home in future greatly undermines our ability to influence the development of human rights in Europe and in the rest of the world.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC
COUNSEL

Every wrong should have a remedy

Much strong feeling has been generated among barristers by the Bar Council's proposed complaints scheme. I am not known as a great supporter of Bar Council policies, but on this occasion I believe the council has got it right. The scheme is, I believe, sensible and workable and barristers would be foolish to reject it.

The main objection is over the proposal that barristers could be ordered to pay compensation for inadequate professional services.

The Criminal Bar is especially worried at the idea of prisoners with nothing better to do than send in complaints in the vague hope that they might get a few pounds out of it. But this criticism looks at only half the proposed scheme, ignoring the many safeguards to be built in.

In particular there is the Complaints Commissioner, who will consider all complaints and can summarily reject the frivolous or unfounded. Many barristers are unaware of how many frivolous complaints are made to the Bar Council under the present system. I have been on the Bar's professional conduct committee (PCC) for a year and in my view most complaints — about 400 a year — are unfounded.

Yet they must all go through the PCC procedure. The barrister must be asked for an explanation, the case considered by a PCC member and, in most cases, formally dismissed by the PCC itself. If there were a quicker way of rejecting the unfounded complaints at the start, barristers would not have to respond and then have an anxious wait

until the complaint was formally dismissed. But there remain a worrying few justified complaints where our present system does not serve the public. It is good at dealing with the (rare) cases of dishonesty or unprofessional conduct, but does not deal with simple incompetence. These cases are few; but they bring the profession into disrepute and we must be prepared to deal with them and order compensation for any damage or pain.

A suggestion that having a compensation scheme would encourage complaints is an unbarrierlike argument — and goes against all we stand for. Do we abolish the Court of Appeal because it encourages appeals? Or judicial review because it encourages disagree-

ment with government decisions? Almost all barristers' work involves a belief that where there is a wrong, there must be a remedy. We apply that principle to others and must be willing to do so to ourselves. The Bar should also consider the consequences of rejecting the new system. Politically, the status quo is not an option. If we do not create a new complaints system, we will have one imposed on us by the Government — one out of our control, and possibly more draconian.

The proposed new scheme is not perfect and will need to be kept under scrutiny to ensure it does not cause injustice. But it is a welcome first step.

NEIL ADDISON

● The author is a barrister in Blackfield chambers, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Very hairy situation

THE WIG controversy has raised its ugly head again. Brian Woodhams, a Liverpool solicitor-advocate who was granted Crown Court rights this summer, says that defendants have mistaken him for an usher on three occasions. Mr Woodhams says: "Solicitor-advocates and barristers enjoy equal rights of audience, but surely the public and members of the jury must think that if you are not wearing a wig you are not quite the real thing?"

Talk shop
MUCH debating will take place at Lincoln's Inn tonight.



Ten challengers from the Inn will be fighting it out for the Crowther Public Speaking Shield at the Great Hall. The two winners will then go forward for the Inn's equivalent of the FA Cup: the Reid Inter-Inn Debating Cup.

Objection

ALITTLE O.J. Simpson trial trivia that shows how hard it is for lawyers to curb their speeches in court. Over 133 days, Marcia Clark, left, the prosecutor, spoke in court almost 37,000 times; an average of 278 utterances a day. Johnnie Cochran, the lead defence counsel, spoke a total of 33,000 times.

lent of the FA Cup: the Reid Inter-Inn Debating Cup. Earlier this month Gray's Inn Debating Society was flexing its muscles on a topic close to the heart of Martin

Mears, the Law Society president: "This house believes that feminism is irrelevant to the needs of modern society."

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LAWYERS and judges who live and work in or near Chancery Lane have a unique opportunity to take a piece of it home with them. Since the station's recent refurbishment, London Underground is offering for sale five Chancery Lane Underground signs.

Brook's Auctioneers, which will be holding the auction at the Natural History Museum in Kensington, west London, on December 5, claims that the signs could fetch as much as £150. Details are available on 0171-228 8000.

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Breaking up is still hard to do

Chris Barton on the new version of the Family Law Bill and how rules governing divorce will change

Will opponents of the Lord Chancellor's family law plans be as successful as the Ancient Mariner who "stoppeh one of three"? A number of pressure groups are seeking to influence the Bill — promised in last week's Queen's Speech — to change the laws on divorce, family homes and domestic violence.

Yet, while Coleridge's button-holer was content merely to delay the wedding guests en route, some of Lord Mackay of Clashfern's adversaries are complaining that, if he has his way, the bride and groom will not need to bother turning up at all.

The Family Law Bill — which takes in a revised version of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill — is intended to allay the disparate misgivings of social right-wingers and family law professionals alike. The original Bill was criticised by the Tory Right who saw it as subverting the party's commit-

ment to marriage. On closer study, that group may now understand that its suspicions about the proposals were largely unfounded. It made no attempt, for example, to extend a wife's property rights to a cohabitant. Since 1976, the latter has been able to apply for temporary occupation of her misbehaving partner's house, and the ill-starred Bill merely suggested that protection be extended to include interference by others such as a woman's former husband.

On divorce, the Queen's Speech presaged the first change for nearly 25 years. The proposals are a liberal-conservative mix: abolish the fault-based grounds while doing away with the "quickie" divorce. To practitioners, the more controversial issue is whether mediators, rather than lawyers, should get the publicly financed end of the business. Mediators acknowledge that, like lawyers, they are not a charity. One of their standard texts states that: "A mediation service needs to

generate a client flow and this chapter suggests ways of getting the client to contact you."

Law teachers, minority stakeholders in the matter, should expect little sympathy at the demise of their dog-eared notes on fault in divorce, such as the required minimal choreography for adultery.

Under the "quickie" special procedure there has been no actual trial of allegations in undefended divorce proceedings for 18 years. Under this system, petitions are read in private by a district judge and, if they appear to meet the theoretical requirements they will, then the serial numbers of the petitions granted are read out as a job lot to an empty courtroom.

Some Cabinet members have leaked to the press their moral misgivings about a fault-free system. They should know that about 75 per cent of divorcing couples use the fault ground as a device to obtain their freedom within a few months. Under the expected Bill, couples would have to



Will the new divorce proposals help couples to avoid a potential "War of the Roses"?

wait for a minimum of one year of "consideration and reflection" before the granting of a decree. In this period they would have to conclude a financial settlement and make arrangements for children. Those who prescribe a longer period should remember that separation followed by cohabitation, and not divorce and remarriage, are today the key steps in family reformation.

The burning question is: who is to guide the parties on their journey? In the past, couples have been led mainly by lawyers, which is hardly surprising in a legal process.

The Government's original plan was that anyone intending to initiate divorce proceedings would first have to attend a communal "information session" about the effects of divorce. Faced with the objection that it would resemble a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, more private methods, such as watching a

video, are now envisaged. The Government has "noted the evidence" that mediation, "a process in which a third person helps the parties in a dispute to resolve it", reduces bitterness and tension, improves communication between couples and helps them to reach agreement on a wide range of issues.

More controversial, at least to family lawyers, was the early government view that "mediation will prove to be more cost-effective than negotiating at arms' length through two separate lawyers and even more so than litigating through the courts".

It is not necessary to be a lawyer with vested interests to suspect that, for a Government under pressure to reduce taxation, cutting the public cost of divorce by requiring participants to use one supposedly cheap mediator rather than two supposedly more expensive legal aid lawyers, may be high in the list of considerations.

In this context, it is unfortunate that the Solicitors Family Law Association code of practice sees fit to point out that membership "is not a guarantee of excellence, or specialisation... there is no test of legal ability". Its 3,500 members, or at least those who have been unable to get on to the £1,000-a-week mediation retraining courses, will be relieved by Lord Mackay's assurance that mediation will not be compulsory.

● The author is Reader in Law at Staffordshire University.

LEGAL ROUNDUP

MR JUSTICE DYSON — who came under fire from Michael Howard recently after his ruling against the Home Secretary — will give the opening address today at a reception held by The Public Law Project charity. The occasion is the launch of Sweet & Maxwell's book *The Applicant's Guide to Judicial Review*.

WIGS and gowns come up again this week — together with weightier issues — at a meeting of the leaders of the UK and Irish Bars. Court dress is an issue in the Republic and the need to wear wigs may soon go to a referendum of the profession.

YOUNGER personal injury claimants will receive larger damages awards now that the Civil Evidence Act is on the statute book. It enacts Law Commission reforms to simplify the rules on hearsay evidence. It also introduces actuarial evidence for the assessing of damages. The reform means awards can be more accurately calculated instead of judges having to work them out for themselves.

LAWYERS on the Internet can subscribe to a monthly newsletter. It is being produced by Delia Venables and Charles Christian at a cost of £25 for five. The first issue covers the new Internet site which has been launched by Legalese, the publishers. Details from Ms Venables on: 01273 472424.

A SENIOR ex-Army officer is to shake up City law firm Titmuss Sainer Dechert. Sir Peter Duffell, who rose to lieutenant-general and was a former commander of the British Forces in Hong Kong and Major General of the Brigade of Gurkhas, becomes the firm's chief executive. Meanwhile, Norton Rose has revamped its Russian practice. The firm has appointed a new managing partner — Simon Renton — in Moscow.

COPYWATCH, a campaign to stop illegal copying, has been launched by the Copyright Licensing Agency. The agency acts on behalf of authors and publishers and will target businesses who infringe copyright. A hotline is being set up. 101 436 4242.

FRANCES GIBB

Energy specialists in the City tap into big business

This is a red letter day for Bruce Westbrook, an oil and gas lawyer with Cameron Markby Hewitt. If all goes to plan he should by now be lugged out as a roughneck and be on his way, for the first time, to a BP oilrig in the North Sea.

Mr Westbrook says: "They don't offer these trips as a joyride any more. It is a special honour and I am grateful to BP for the invitation."

Oil and gas lawyers, as specialists within the energy field, are now back in business in a big way. There has been speculation for some time in the industry that British Gas would try to renegotiate its take-or-pay contracts with its North Sea suppliers. These commit British Gas to paying for an agreed amount of gas, even if it does not need it all.

So it came as no surprise when Cedric Brown revealed last week that he is now seeking to find an escape route.

For a select group of energy lawyers this looks like another bonanza. Mr Westbrook added: "There's going to be a lot of jockeying going on among oil and gas specialists for this work. Most big companies have a panel of three or four regular lawyers but if battle commences with British Gas they may decide to bring in other firms who have more experience in this kind of activity."

There are few law firms with a real track record of commitment to this field. Denton Hall, Ashurst Mowlem, Crisp, Linklaters & Paines, and Nabarro Norther & Nathanson are among the leaders. While Cam-

Edward Fennell reports on a return to the big time for oil and gas lawyers

eron Markby Hewitt prides itself on being the only City law firm with an office on the spot in Aberdeen.

The view among lawyers generally was that Cedric Brown had once again scored an own goal. "British Gas seems to want it both ways," says one gas specialist. "When these agreements were negotiated they looked like a very good deal for British Gas. I can't see how they can start complaining at this stage, especially as they are supposed to be facing up to the rigours of the market. I expect my clients to take a tough stand."

While "take-or-pay" is the focus of

immediate attention, many energy specialists are looking ahead to the bigger long-term issue of wholesale decommissioning in the North Sea. The Brent Spa episode is just the first of many such exercises.

Mark Saunders, an energy specialist at Nabarro, is already being approached by his clients to start planning ahead for what to do with their platforms later on in this decade, and into the next. "What Brent Spa has shown is that there are more than just legal issues involved here," he says. "The company behaved totally legally and was subsequently shown to have

selected probably the best technical solution. In future, however, the public relations issues will have to be considered as well. I am presently working on how clients can address all these issues together."

At the same time as the North Sea rigs start to be abandoned, however, there is an expectation that new fields to the west of Shetland will be coming on stream. Better technology and new types of joint ventures between the oil companies and contractors will also set new challenges for the energy industry's legal specialists.

In the meantime, it is expected that there will continue to be some small degree of takeovers and mergers among companies operating in the North Sea. This

would, of course, be nothing like the scale of change that has affected the regional electricity companies, which are also leading clients of City law firms' energy practices. Just last month Denton Hall played a key role for the Southern Company in its takeover of South Western Electricity — a significant move because, as Andrew Daws of Denton Hall points out: "This was the first UK electricity utility to be taken over by a foreign company."

The comprehensive reorganisation of the electricity industry in the UK has not just been good business for City lawyers but has also given them an invaluable track record for work overseas: many City firms are engaged in work throughout the Continent and Asia on similar restructuring projects.

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Rescinding bankruptcy order

Fitch v Official Receiver
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Iain Gidwell

[Reasons November 15]

A change of attitude of a petitioning creditor to the making of a bankruptcy order was a sufficient change in circumstances such as to entitle the court, under section 375(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, to review the bankruptcy order and to consider whether the bankruptcy order ought to be rescinded.

The Court of Appeal so stated giving its reasons for allowing an appeal on October 26 by the applicants, Anthony Edward Fitch and Janet Margaret Fitch, from Mr Justice Chadwick who on October 5 ordered that their application to review and rescind the bankruptcy order made against them on July 31, 1995 be dismissed.

Mr Anthony Mann, QC, for the applicants; Mr Stephen Moverley Smith for the Official Receiver.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT, giving the judgment of the court, said that Mr and Mrs Fitch applied for the bankruptcy orders to be rescinded under section 375(1). At the time of their applications there was no ground upon which they could properly seek rescission of the bankruptcy orders, but shortly afterwards they persuaded the petitioning creditor to change its mind and support them.

The reason which had led the

petitioning creditor to change its attitude, and which evidently commended itself to the other creditors, was that it was now believed that there was a serious risk that the existence of a bankruptcy order against Mr Fitch would prejudice the recovery of a substantial asset for the estate. If that was the case then it was not in the interests of the creditors that the bankruptcy should continue and a large body of the creditors appeared to accept that.

The judge refused the applications for two distinct reasons:

1 The application was not an occasion for a rehearing of the appeal from the making of bankruptcy orders. There had to be some new matter which had not been raised and was not available at the previous hearing.

2 The only matter which could be identified as a change in circumstances since the hearing on July 31 was the change in the attitude of the petitioning creditor.

That change did not derive from any change in the underlying circumstances but from a reappraisal by the petitioning creditor of where its commercial interests lay. The material on which it conducted that reappraisal, however, had been available throughout.

2 The court was being asked to rescind the bankruptcy order so that Mr Fitch could continue to present himself as a person who was not bankrupt and who had not

been made bankrupt. That amounted to a deception to which the court should not be a party.

Counsel for the Official Receiver, who invited the court to dismiss the appeal, did not feel able to support either of the reasons given by the judge for refusing the applications. His Lordship would deal with each in turn.

Change of circumstances

The jurisdiction given by section 375(1) of the 1986 Act was unique to insolvency, in that it allowed the court to review and rescind or vary an order made by a court of co-ordinate jurisdiction.

It applied to any order made in the exercise of the bankruptcy jurisdiction. The court's power to review and rescind or vary an order made by a court of co-ordinate jurisdiction was, in theory at least, virtually unlimited.

Before the judge, Mr and Mrs Fitch accepted that the bankruptcy orders were rightly made. They based their applications on the fact that circumstances had changed since the orders were made. They did not rely on the mere fact that the petitioning creditor had changed its mind.

Once a bankruptcy order had been made, the status of the petitioning creditor was no different from any other creditor. Mr and Mrs Fitch relied upon the fact that a large body of creditors, which included the petitioning creditor, supported the rescission of the bankruptcy orders and that none of the known creditors op-

posed it. If that had been the position on July 31 the bankruptcy petition would have been dismissed. The fact that the underlying circumstances which led the creditors to support the rescission of the bankruptcy orders had been known at the time the orders were made did not prevent their change of attitude from being both new and relevant, because it had occurred since the making of the bankruptcy orders. It was a factor which could not be taken into account on an appeal or on an application under section 228(1) of the 1986 Act.

The judge was wrong to stigmatise the applications as an attempt to have another appeal hearing. Section 375(1) provided the only means of giving effect to the creditors' wishes that the bankruptcies should be discontinued.

Proposed deception

There was no evidence from which the judge could properly conclude that Mr and Mrs Fitch intended to embark on a course of deception if the bankruptcy orders were rescinded.

Accordingly the judge exercised his discretion on an erroneous basis, and their Lordships had to exercise it themselves. The Official Receiver urged their Lordships to do so by refusing the applications, on the ground that the jurisdiction to rescind a bankruptcy order was an exceptional one and that the authorities under the former Bankruptcy Act showed that it was one which should be exercised only where the circumstances were closely analogous to a scheme of arrangement.

Apparent support for that proposition might be found in cases under the former Bankruptcy Act. See *In re Lord, Ex parte Official Receiver* ([1988] 1 QB 244) which was distinguished in *In re a Debtor* (No 12 of 1970) ([1971] 1 WLR 1212) on the ground that in former there was a de facto scheme of arrangement approved by all the creditors.

Their Lordships did not read the passage relied on (at p1215F-G) as laying down a rule of law that a receiving order could only be rescinded where the circumstances were closely analogous to a scheme of arrangement.

While, therefore, the discretion conferred by section 375(1) was still to be exercised with caution and only in exceptional circumstances, their Lordships did not accept that those circumstances were limited in the manner alleged.

It remained to consider whether the circumstances of the present case were exceptional and if so whether they justified the rescission of the bankruptcy order. In their Lordships' opinion they were and did.

Solicitors: Meade-King, Bristol; Treasury Solicitor.

Tax adjustment by new assessment

Glaxo Group Ltd and Others v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker [Judgment November 9]

Following a transfer pricing enquiry, a direction given by the Board of Inland Revenue under the provisions of section 485 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, on transactions between associated persons, to any tax adjustments necessary to give effect to such direction could be made by amending an existing open assessment to corporation tax.

The statutory provisions did not restrict adjustments being made by a new assessment raised after the relevant direction had been given and within the usual six-year time limit.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division writing refusing to make declarations sought by an originating summons issued by three wholly owned subsidiaries of Glaxo Wellcome plc that section 485 could not apply unless there had been a direction by the Board of Inland Revenue and thereafter an assessment within the appropriate time limit.

Section 485(1) of the 1970 Act contained provisions for sales at undervalue between associated persons in different countries to be treated for tax purposes as a transaction at a price that the property would have fetched had the transaction been between independent persons dealing at arms' length.

Section 485(2) covered the converse case of sale at an overvalue.

Section 485(3) provided: "The preceding provisions of this section shall not apply in relation to any sale unless the Board so direct, and where such a direction is given all such adjustments shall be made, whether by assessment, repayment of tax or otherwise, as are necessary to give effect to the direction."

Section 17 of the Finance Act 1975 extended the scope of section 485 and the provisions were re-enacted in sections 770, 772 and 773 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Mr John Gardiner, QC and Mr Jonathan Peacock for the Glaxo companies; Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that transfer pricing was a convenient expression used to describe the supply of goods or services, between associated enterprises in different countries on terms that were not arms' length commercial terms. It might take place for reasons having nothing to do with tax but it was potentially a versatile means of tax avoidance.

The Revenue had over a period of years been concerned with inquiries into transfer pricing activities which in its view might have taken place between some or all of the Glaxo companies and associated companies overseas, particularly in Switzerland and Singapore. Glaxo did not accept that such activities had taken place.

But at this stage the court was not concerned to reach even a

preliminary view of any factual issues. It was concerned solely with a short but difficult point of statutory construction.

Correspondence between the Revenue and Glaxo had been on foot since 1976 and had continued, with periods of remission, ever since. The general pattern was that Glaxo companies had received notices of assessment to corporation tax against which they had appealed and the appeals had still not been determined; in consequence the companies had open assessments going back for many years.

The Revenue, since 1976, had contended that the combination of (i) an open assessment resulting from an unresolved appeal and (ii) a subsequent direction made by the Board under section 485 was sufficient to enable the direction to be considered and taken into account on the appeal.

Glaxo, on the other hand, contended that a direction under section 485 was ineffective unless followed by an assessment, normally a further assessment made under section 29(3) of the Taxes Management Act 1970, made within the appropriate statutory time limit, normally six years.

Thus the central issue concerned the construction of the words of section 485(3) in the context of the legislation as a whole.

Rightly analysed, the general form of section 485(1) and (2) was that where X occurred and provided that Y was not the case, consequence Z followed. That consequence was that for the purpose of computing the profits, in the

typical case, Schedule D, case 1 trading profits, of the party which had dealt on worse than commercial terms, a sort of statutory fiction was to be adopted: there was to be a computation as if the transaction had been on arms' length terms. The profits computed in that way were still to be put in that way were still to be charged under Schedule D, case 1.

The adoption of that method of computation was by section 485(3) conditional on the Revenue giving a direction. But there was nothing in the grammatical structure of the subsection requiring that the direction should, as a matter of chronological sequence, precede any other formal step.

Mr Gardiner submitted that the second limb of section 485(3) called for adjustments to be made and that adjustments could be made only to something that was there already. He also submitted that unless that second limb required an inspector to make a new assessment under section 29(3) of the Taxes Management Act 1970, it became unnecessary and meaningless.

In considering those submissions, it was useful to reflect that at the time when the Board gave a direction there were three possible stages that might have been reached in the determination of a taxpayer's Schedule D, case 1, liability:

1 He might be still working on his computation and not yet made a return or might have made a return but not yet received any notice of assessment;

2 An assessment might have been made and become conclusive, with or without notice of appeal having been given, though subject to the possibility of a further assessment under section 29(3); or

3 There might be an open assessment.

In all those situations some adjustment would be needed and that adjustment, whatever form it took, had to allow for the possibility of the transfer price issue raised by the Board's direction being challenged on appeal. In every case a recomputation of profit or loss was going to be needed.

In the third situation the adjustment could, in line with the reasoning of Mr Justice Latham in *R v Inland Revenue Commissioners, Ex parte Barber* ([1994] STC 731) be made in the course of dealing with the pending appeal on the open assessment: the Revenue being under a duty to see that the taxpayer knew well in advance of any hearing the case that he had to meet.

The language of section 485(3), not on any view a model of clarity, was capable of bearing that meaning and for that reason the declarations sought by Glaxo would not be made.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

River bed is part of the controlled water in pollution case

National Rivers Authority v Biffa Waste Services Ltd

Before Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Roulger [Judgment November 15]

A river bed was part of controlled waters and where therefore mud and silt from the river bed had been churned up into the water no offence under section 85 of the Water Resources Act 1991 had been committed as the mud and silt were already present.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing a prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated from Chancery Justices who had on June 22, 1994 acquitted Biffa Waste Services Ltd of causing polluting matter to enter controlled waters, namely the River Rother, contrary to section 85(1).

Biffa had been carrying out work on the river which involved driving tracked vehicles along the river bed. The operation stirred up

mud and silt from the river bed which was then suspended in the river water causing severe discolouration.

Mr Anthony Ellery, QC and Mr David Dixon for the National Rivers Authority; Mr Ian Croxford, QC, for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that the draftsman of the 1991 Act had intended that a river bed was obviously part of the controlled waters. In those circumstances the justices had been right to find that the respondents had not caused anything to enter the watercourse that was not there already; they had stirred up matter but had not introduced anything.

The matter might be different if the diggers had dug up the river bed but that, his Lordship said, was another story. It was unnecessary to decide whether mud and silt introduced into water was polluting matter under section 85.

That was a different question because what was polluting might be different in different contexts.

His Lordship considered the leading case of *R v Doverport Ltd* (The Times February 3, 1995) in which it was clear that Lord Justice Stuart-Smith considered "pollute" to have a different meaning from "poisonous or noxious".

Whether matter polluted was a question of fact and degree but his Lordship abstained from going further as there was no need to do so in the present case.

MR JUSTICE ROULGER, agreeing, said that the case had been decided on a narrow basis and it was not to be assumed it gave contractors and developers carte blanche to disturb as much of the river bed as they wished as in certain circumstances the strands of the bed would be very narrow indeed.

Solicitors: Ms B. Carr, Warrington; Cripps & Shone, Marlow.

Single transaction taxed as regular agency

Wilson v Hooker (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Sir John Vinelott [Judgment November 6]

A person carrying out a single transaction for a non-resident company could fairly be described for the purposes of section 82(1) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 as "carrying on the regular agency of the non-resident person" and as such was chargeable to corporation tax under section 78(1) as an agent in respect of the profits gained.

Sir John Vinelott, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so held dismissing an appeal by Anthony R. Wilson from a determination by Colchester general commissioners that had upheld a corporation tax assessment on him as agent for Ashvale Investments Ltd for the year 1988 of £112,958.

Mr Jeremy Woolf for Mr

Wilson; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the evidence was consistent with an acquisition by Mr Wilson of Ashvale, an Isle of Man company, for the sole purpose of acquiring and reselling land at Hirwaun.

There was no doubt that Mr Wilson had acted as agent for Ashvale in carrying through the transaction. The question was whether he was an authorised person carrying on the regular agency of Ashvale within the meaning of section 82(1) of the 1970 Act.

Mr Woolf submitted that a person could not be said to be "carrying on the regular agency" of a non-resident person unless he acted regularly as the non-resident's agent and that the concept of regularity involved a degree of permanence and repetition.

Relying on passages from the

speeches of Viscount Cave, Lord Chancellor, and Lord Shaw of Dunfermline in *Maclean & Co v Easot* ([1926] AC 424, 435-6, 442), Mr Woolf said that a person who acted once as the agent could not be described as an agency or be said to act "regularly" for a non-resident.

The passages cited from *Maclean* did not assist Mr Woolf's submission. Mr Wilson was clearly not a person casually employed as an agent of Ashvale. He was employed in the only transaction in which Ashvale was engaged during the relevant period. He had done everything that was needed to be done on behalf of Ashvale to acquire the land and to remit the proceeds to an account in the Isle of Man. There was no substance in the appeal.

Solicitors: Birken Westbury & Long, Colchester; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

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Clark risks Roy in Forest's game of patience

Patience and the passage of time
Do more than strength and fury
— Jean de La Fontaine

IF NOTTINGHAM Forest are to continue to progress as England's lone standard-bearer in Europe, then the virtues that stand them apart from others who have fallen — patience — will need exercising to the full against Lyons in the first leg of their Uefa Cup tie at the City Ground tonight.

Patience serves Frank Clark unquestionably well. He is among the most intelligent of English club managers, but tonight he must make a judgment on medical grounds concerning four key players — Colin Cooper, Steve Chettle, Bryan Roy and Jason Lee. Not only that, from what little he knows of the French team, he will have to be prepared to change tactics at any time. On the three occasions that he has had Lyons watched, they have

played a different system. What is consistent is that a solitary goal is often as much as they muster, and sometimes sufficient. For Lyons, who lie just above the relegation positions in the French first division, have won only four times in 18 league games, scoring less than a goal a game; yet they have eliminated Farsen, of Portugal, and Lazio, of Italy, from the Uefa Cup, winning all four matches.

Since one goal from Steve Stone was all that it took for Forest to eliminate Auxerre, a more experienced French team, patience will indeed be required tonight. Lyons are essentially a team of youth, drawn mostly from the Rhône region, and their goalscorers tend to vary widely, though Florian Maurice, 21, is the marksman in chief. Ludovic Giuly, the playmaker, is even younger — a teenager.

Like Forest of the post-Collymore era, the French team are without big



ROB HUGHES
Overseas Football

names or big heads. Clark could do without even thinking of Collymore tonight, but, on Thursday, he meets the centre forward who joined Liverpool for £8.5 million in the summer at a tribunal in which Collymore, having allegedly canvassed for a move, is claiming £575,000 for his part of the fee and his "loyalty" bonus. The money would wipe out the television and gate proceeds from this tie.

What Forest also need is the resilient form of their 25-match unbeaten run, which was shattered in the 7-0 drubbing by Blackburn Rovers on Saturday. On the same

afternoon, Lyons were in Monaco, rising to the occasion by beating the team of Jean Tigana, their former manager. Forest's one fear has always been a rash of injuries, because, lacking vast resources, Clark could not build a squad like the big city clubs.

Tonight, he will risk Roy, despite a torn knee cartilage that will be operated on after the game. "It's a risk, but worth taking because Bryan is such a potential match-winner," Clark said. He insists, however, that he will take no risks in the case of Cooper, who blacked out during the match at Blackburn.

"It was not concussion," Clark said, "but some sort of virus. We'll make a decision on the night." Standing by are Alf Inge Haaland, the Norwegian, and Andrea Silenzi, the Italian. Forest do things in reverse; they call in the foreigners when the Englishmen are ailing.

In Zurich yesterday, meanwhile, Fifa at last stood up to the dictator. João Havelange, the president of football's world governing body, was obliged to forego his autocratic power and to accept reform of the organisation brought about by the challenge of Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, who is the first man in 21 years to stand against him for the Fifa presidency.

From now on, although Fifa will rightly retain control of the game's rules and its future direction, it will have to consult a new body, made up of the continental federations, on matters affecting the television in-

come from the World Cup and its rotation from continent to continent. Havelange will now be answerable to others.

There are, I believe, five bids for the television rights to the World Cup 2002 — bids that have reached \$2 billion, more than ten times the sum that Fifa has distributed from the 1994 World Cup. However, the continental federation heads stopped short of actually censoring Havelange for flying to Nigeria, giving succour to General Abacha at the time that the dictator's military regime was overseeing the execution of nine dissidents, and for unilaterally promising Nigeria a world youth tournament already promised to Malaysia.

The Asian confederation did at least reject Havelange's attempt to take the promised competition from them, and the chastised overlord of the game must now realise that he cannot rule alone.

Endeavour owner says 'lack of respect' led to sale

By Jenny MacArthur

THE British Show Jumping Association's (BSJA) attitude towards its owners was one of the reasons that prompted the sale of Endeavour, the top British show jumper, to the United States last week, according to Dorothy Sibley, the former owner of the horse.

Sibley, who sold the potential Olympic team horse to Debbie Dolan, a United States team show jumper, for a reputed £600,000, said yesterday: "The BSJA doesn't know how to treat owners. I feel, if I don't make the point now, it will never be made."

"Owners are not respected or appreciated. When I look back over the three years we've had Endeavour, there were very few times the name of Sibley came into it."

"At Rotterdam, where Endeavour was in the Nations Cup, we practically had to lick the workmen's boots to try and get into the stadium. Then, when we looked in the programme, our name wasn't there."

"At the Horse of the Year Show, at Wembley, it was worse. It took half-an-hour to get into the international owners' stand and, when you got there, it was like sitting in a pig pen."

Andrew Fielding, the secretary-general of the BSJA, said yesterday that he was surprised by Sibley's comments. "We always try extremely hard to look after owners," he said. "We rely very much on them, especially at an international level."

"If Mrs Sibley had talked to us about any difficulties, we would have been pleased to help her. Endeavour has been a great ambassador for show jumping and we are very sorry that he has been sold to the United States. We could have done with him."

Great Britain's three-day event team selectors yesterday named 14 riders and 17 horses from which they will pick a team for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next summer. The riders include Mary King, Tina Gifford and Charlotte Bathie, who won gold medals for Britain at both the world and European team events.

Bennett gambles on relaxed approach

By Phil Yates

THOSE who claim that snooker has lost its characters should take a closer look at Mark Bennett, a Newport betting-shop proprietor who settles wagers six days a week and makes no secret of his love for the odd punt.

Players with a cavalier approach are few and far between in these days when the game boasts a multimillion pound circuit, but, by beating Dave Harold, the world No 13, 9-7 in the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship at Preston yesterday, Bennett proved that they are not extinct.

Bennett, 32, has found a new lease of life after three years when his enjoyment of the game waned. "I'm turning up for events determined to have a few beers and I'm relishing it all again," he said.

There is little doubt that Bennett, who beat Jimmy White in the last 32 of the 1988 championship, is benefiting from his newly relaxed attitude. He compiled a career-best 141 total clearance in qualifying for the German Open next month and, in building an 8-2 lead over Harold, looked totally at ease.

Harold threatened to pull off a miraculous recovery by rallying to 7-8, but the former Asian Open champion could not apply the finishing touch as he became the competition's third top-16 casualty. A 5-4 break from Bennett in the sixteenth frame secured him a meeting with Andy Hicks in the second round.

Matthew Stevens, 18, of Carmarthen, maintained the excellent form that he displayed in winning the Benson and Hedges championship last week as he established a 6-2 lead over Steve James.

Peter Ebdon surprisingly trailed Barry Pinches, of Norwich, 5-3 entering the concluding session last night.

David Lilley, the European amateur champion from Newcastle, reached the quarter-finals of the Embassy world amateur championship in Bristol yesterday with a 5-2 victory over Gordon Bain, of Glasgow.

MOTOR RALLYING: Network O'PAC Rally, SNOOKERS: Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom Championship, Preston; world amateur championship (Bristol).

OTHER SPORT
MOTOR RALLYING: Network O'PAC Rally, SNOOKERS: Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom Championship, Preston; world amateur championship (Bristol).

United turn down bid for Bruce

By Our Sports Staff

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers Football Club's search for a successor to Graham Taylor led into its first cul-de-sac yesterday when Manchester United rejected an official approach for Steve Bruce.

The Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, that parted company with Taylor eight days ago, had approached United on Friday for permission to speak to Bruce, the club captain. Yesterday, however, Martin Edwards, the United chairman, turned Wolverhampton down.

It is a significant blow to Wolverhampton, who saw Bruce as perfect for a role as player-manager. The club had wanted to offer a similar position to Bryan Robson before appointing Taylor, 20 months ago, but were unable to prise him away from Old Trafford. Robson eventually took over at Middlesbrough, with immediate success.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had already made it clear that he did not want to lose Bruce. "We turned down Derby's approach in the summer and Wolves will expect the same," he said last week. "Even if his contract was up this summer, we still wouldn't consider releasing him."

Bruce, 34, is thought to be keen on a move into management, even though he will benefit from a lucrative testimonial with United at the end of this season.

Manchester City have won their legal battle with Brian Horton, their former manager. Horton, now in charge of Huddersfield Town, was dis-

missed in the summer after 21 months, and claimed that he was entitled to be paid the remainder of his two-year contract, thought to be worth about £300,000.

A judge in Manchester, however, ruled in City's favour after the FA Carling Premiership club successfully argued that, under the terms of the contract, Horton was due any money that might be owing to him only while he was seeking a new job, and any shortfall in his salary when he took up a new post. That figure is estimated to be about £100,000.

Russell Osman's long-running dispute with Bristol City has ended with an out-of-court settlement over his claim for wrongful dismissal. Osman was dismissed as manager of the second division club a year ago.

Andy Pearce, the Sheffield Wednesday central defender, is considering a transfer to Wimbledon, their Premiership rivals, after the clubs agreed a fee of £600,000. "Wimbledon spoke to me at the weekend and I've given the player permission to talk to them," David Platt, the Wednesday manager, said.

Manchester City are also hoping to complete the £500,000 signing of Thomas Christiansen, the Spain striker, from Barcelona. Christiansen, 22, impressed during a recent trial at Maine Road, but City were unable to meet his personal terms. It is thought that Christiansen, who scored on his Spain debut, has considerably reduced his demands.



Michael Tritscher, of Austria, works hard for his victory in the World Cup slalom at Beaver Creek, Colorado. Nearly squandering the lead that he carved on the first run, Tritscher finally prevailed with a time of 1min 35.29sec to narrowly beat the charge of Sebastien Amiez, of France, who finished second in 1min 35.32sec.

Alberto Tomba, the defending champion from Italy, who has yet to win in his three races this season, again struggled. Tomba made it to the podium only when Michael Von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, was disqualified from his apparent third-place finish for missing a gate. A jury spent

half-hour studying videos. Tomba was timed in 1min 35.45sec.

Kjetil Andre Aamodt led a Norwegian sweep of the next two positions. Lasse Kjus, his team-mate, took over the early lead in the overall positions with his fifth-place finish, coupled with the disqualification of Von Gruenigen, who had won the two previous giant-slalom races with Kjus finishing second.

Tritscher, who had won just twice before in a ten-year career, hailed this as his most dramatic victory after nearly losing all of his first-run lead over Amiez, who had been no better than tenth.

"This was just wild, to be starting last knowing that the man I had to beat had started so long before," Tritscher said of the continuing discord over the reverse-30 start order.

Tritscher last season had to wait almost to the end to win a slalom at Furano, Japan, a race in which Tomba fell. "This time, it was much more satisfying with Tomba on the podium; I felt I had achieved more," he said.

Tomba, who skipped the giant slalom in Tiernes, France, that opened the season and struggled in the second at Beaver Creek on Friday, conceded his conditioning was not all it should be.

Cliftonville fall foul of the penalty clause

Russell Kempson on a Northern Irish team dreading the prospect of another spectacular shoot-out failure

Hear the one about the Irish football team that keeps losing penalty shoot-outs? The team that has won only four in 16 attempts and only one in 12 during the past ten years. The team that has missed its most recent seven penalties, with the goalkeeper not even having to make a save.

Step forward Cliftonville, the part-timers from north Belfast and the Smirnoff Irish League premier division. Steel yourself for a tale of unmitigated woe, the horror of all horrors from 12 yards out. It is no joke, Irish or otherwise.

Spare a thought, even a prayer, for Cliftonville this evening should their Co Antrim Shield tie, away to Carrick Rangers, finish level after extra time. Marty Quinn, the manager, has no fears about finding volunteers for the sudden death conclusion. Trouble is, there is no guarantee where they will put the ball.

"It is getting ridiculous,"

Quinn, who has spent 14 years at the club in two spells, said. "I think the lads are becoming aware of it all and the pressure is beginning to tell. I've just told them to get their heads down, take a good run at the ball and then blast it. If the keeper saves it, fair play, but at least get it on target."

"We have no problems scoring from penalties in training, or when we get one during a game, but we just can't do it in a shoot-out. The ball seems to go everywhere — against the post or crossbar, over the top or miles wide. Some of them have been so bad the keeper has had time to bend down and pick the ball up."

Paul Treanor, 38, the club historian and programme editor, has supported Cliftonville for 20 years. Since the shoot-

out first arrived, 17 years ago — the province has seven knockout competitions — he has witnessed save after slip after slip. "It's soul destroying," he said. "You just know what's going to happen."

"A lot of the fans don't even bother watching anymore; they leave straight after the extra time has ended. I still stick it out, I don't know why, and I'd offer to have a go myself if I thought I was fit enough to reach the spot. It's getting desperate. I'm desperate."

Not that Cliftonville — founded in 1879, the first football club in Ireland — started too badly. They won three of their first four shoot-outs, including the 1979 Co Antrim Shield final against Crusaders, in which Quinn,

now 44, played. "I was a centre half," he said. "I didn't take penalties."

Then the rot set in, with only one success — in a League Cup first round match against Glentworth in 1992 — from a dozen attempts over ten seasons. They lost 4-3 to Coleraine after going 2-0 up in the Ulster Cup; they lost three shoot-outs in the 1993-94 campaign; they lost 3-0 to Ards, after a 0-0 draw, in the League Cup final at Windsor Park last season.

Another 3-0 reverse in September, against Crusaders in a League Cup quarter-final, took their miserable tally to seven successive missed penalties — without the goalkeepers having to move a muscle. "It was awful," Treanor said. "Some

of my mates wanted to go before the kicks, but they weren't allowed to. It was police brutality."

Jim Boyce, the chairman of Cliftonville and president of the Irish Football Association, rues the financial cost. "In terms of sponsorship money and revenue from games, the loss to the club has been phenomenal," he said.

Yet he, too, copes with good humour, even shaking the hands of the opposing manager and players before the penalties. "I say: 'Thanks a lot, I can go home now,'" he said. For Quinn, this evening could prove a turning point. If Cliftonville again pay the ultimate penalty, he will seek professional help.

"I'll get someone in to talk to us before we all end up in a mental institution," he said. In football, rarely can so many have gone so off target.

With apologies to Manfred Mann, "You've not seen nothing like the Marty Quinn."

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Uefa Cup

Third round, first leg

Nottingham Forest v Lyons (8.00)

FA Cup

First division

Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)

Middlesbrough v Tottenham (7.45)

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

Barnsley v Portsmouth (7.45)

Barnsley v Reading (7.45)

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Watford v Luton (7.45)

West Bromwich v Norwich (7.45)

FA Cup

First round replays

Aston v Bognor Regis (7.45)

Brighton v Carverley (7.45)

Bristol City v Bournemouth (7.45)

Enfield v Newport (7.45)

Gillingham v Wycombe (7.45)

Sutton United v Kidderminster

Woking v Barnet (7.45)

Wrexham v Hull

Vaughall Conference

Bromsgrove v Hednesford (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League

Second division

Barnet v Queens of South

DEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division

Aston v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)

Middlesbrough v Tottenham (7.45)

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

Barnsley v Portsmouth (7.45)

Barnsley v Reading (7.45)

Huddersfield v Leicester

Oxford v Luton (7.45)

Sheff. Wed. v Gillingham (7.45)

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RUGBY UNION

7.30 unless stated

Hatfield Cup

Pool B

Blythswood v Cardiff (7.0)

Leam Valley testimonial match

British Isles XV v International Select XV

(at Llanelli, 7.00)

Tour match

Oxford University v Western Samoa

(8.0)

Under-21 match

Glanrhydd v New Zealand

(at Cardiff, 7.00)

Club matches

Edgbury v Swansea University (7.0)

Exeter v Taunton

Glanrhydd Wanderers

v Gwent (7.0)

Northampton v London Welsh

(at London, 7.00)

Other sport

MOTOR RALLING: Network O RAC Rally

SANDWICH: Royal Liver Assurance Ltd

(Sewell's) motor wheel and axle

competition (8.00)

Australia confirm Test status with decisive triumph

2.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As
World Service

97.6-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-
4, FM 92.4-94.8; LW 196; MW
WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW
M 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM
UK, MW 1063, 1069, Television
Peter Dinklage, Clifton Maxwell,
son

The end of the world is nigh-on inevitable

Here's a scary thought for you. Somewhere out there, tumbling through the infinity of outer space, is a big black rock — and it's got your name on it. In fact, it could have all our names on it. If it's big enough, fast enough and straight enough, it will do for the human race what its younger brother did for the dinosaurs when it crashed into the Gulf of Mexico 65 million years ago.

Extinction certainly has a sobering finality about it but then it has done for some time. It was a scary thought when they made *When Worlds Collide*, 40-odd years ago, and it was a scary thought last night as *Horizons* (BBC2) made one of its periodic returns to the subject in *Hunt for the Dinosaur Asteroid*. Well, it fills in the time while they wait for a big lump of space rock to summon them to the great commissioning editor in the sky.

But once you cut through the cynicism, the old film clips and the exploitation of silly old dears who have already donned sunglasses and headscarves just in case the sky was as compelling as ever.

Apparently there are 2,000 asteroids that measure more than one kilometre across, none of which is the sort of object the Earth wants to meet on a dark night. Several hundred thousand more are more than 100 metres across, quite big enough to inflict a very large dent indeed. As our ability to detect these orbiting oddities rises so, of course, does the perceived probability of a celestial collision, a fact that Tim Haines's film cleverly exploited.

The scary statistics continued to rain down faster than the comet Shoemaker-Levy on Jupiter. Past collisions that caused pulses of extinctions (if you're extinct surely you don't have a pulse) every 26 million years. The fact that the

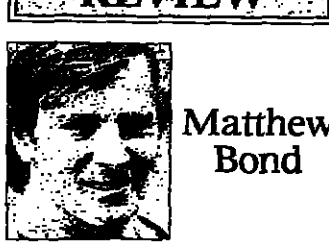
number of people employed worldwide in looking for the next one is roughly equivalent to the staff of one high street McDonald's. The fact that when we do find the galactic boulder with "human race" written on it, nobody knows what to do about it. Close your eyes and count slowly to ten seemed the best bet.

Fitz, of course, would know what to do ("I'll have a very large Scotch please and 5-1 on it landing on Paisley") because Fitz knows everything, as he was once again happy to demonstrate last night in the last *Cracker* (ITV) before it begins a new, part-time life of foreign locations and Christmas specials.

Why was someone going round electrocuting male university students? Execution, opined Fitz, after... oh yes, a spot of controversial sex and bondage. "Revenge, probably. Sweet, most definitely."

Half an hour later he was hazing his normal well-informed guess about the murderer's class, helped by the fact that she had started writing to him. She had used the word dinner — "a middle-class concept" but had made one fatal grammatical error, writing "you and me both know" rather than "you and I". "So her education is flawed, upper working-class perhaps." Nonsense, it

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

just means she's under 35 — none of us was taught grammar properly — but you can't fit Fitz that sort of thing.

What he hasn't worked out yet, however, is how the frail-looking Janice (as is traditional for *Cracker*, we know who the murderer is from the start) manages to bundle 12 stone of recently electrocuted male student into his little van. Used to manual labour, lower working-class perhaps. At this rate, it will be an Untouchable that dunnit.

Rather too late, Paul Abbott's script has reintroduced Fitz (Robbie Coltrane) to characters he and we should that he be and us? parted company with several episodes, if not series, ago. This is your son, these are your university colleagues... oh, you'd forgotten that you used to teach at a university. So had we.

One thing, however, remained unchanged — his astonishing in-

sensitivity. It has driven his wife mad, Janice to murder and Penhaligon to determined indifference. But then with chat-up lines such as "I could make you feel like Zola Budd again" who can blame her?

Earlier, much earlier, morning television had filled its post-*Killing* hiatus with *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (BBC1) a new programme which comes indirectly from the makers of the successful *Ready, Steady, Cook* and seems to have borrowed half its set.

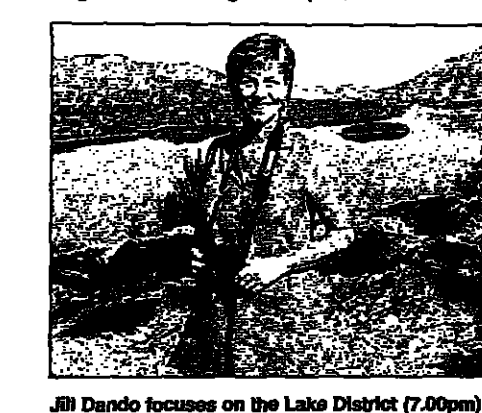
The idea for the daily programme is simple — take two people who can't cook and get one of those jolly television chefs to show them how. For yesterday's first programme it was "mouth-watering medallions of pork with mushroom sauce and rosti potatoes" with the tuition coming from that culinary cornerstone of morn-

ing television, Ainsley Harriott. But if the set has been borrowed from its stablemate, the key to any modest success has been borrowed from *The Generation Game* — show the contestants how to do some things, but not everything. Techniques are only partially explained, quantities left deliberately vague.

The result was an enjoyable dollop of chaos, a liberal sprinkling of staged despair from Harriott and, on the plates, "two dimensional pork in mushroom soup with burnt and over-salted grated potato". A promising start, but how long the novelty can be sustained remains to be seen.

Finally, a brief word about *The Thin Blue Line* (BBC1), the Rowan Atkinson sitcom which stuck its head above the parapet for the second time with an already familiar mixture of Hob-Nobs, the Queen and regular bowlers. I'm sorry, but it still made me laugh.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (63268)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (94415247)
 - 9.10am *Kilroy* (s) (4048315)
 - 10.00am *Ceejays*, regional news and weather (5402266) 10.05 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook*, Kevin Woodford challenges hopeless cooks to create an edible family favourite (s) (3281614)
 - 10.30 *Good Morning with Anne and Nick* (s) (32228)
 - 12.00pm *Ceejays*, regional news and weather (9407518) 12.05pm *Pebble Mill* presented by Sarah Green (s) (453266) 12.50 *Regional News* and weather (2270518)
 - 1.00pm *One O'Clock News* (Ceejays) and weather (42624)
 - 1.30 *Neighbours* (Ceejays) (s) (9265305) 1.50 *Columbo: A Matter of Honor* (3365130) 3.05 *Incognito* (s) (1894131)
 - 3.30 *Casper Classics* (6785841) 3.35 *Blinky Bill* (5018131) 4.00 *Oscar's Orchestra* (s) (6597111) 4.25 *Animal Hospital* (s) (5767711) 4.35 *Kilroy* (Ceejays) (s) (1856605)
 - 5.00 *Newsround* (Ceejays) (8677711) 5.10 *Byker Grove* (Ceejays) (5264112)
 - 5.35 *Neighbours* (Ceejays) (s) (884150)
 - 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* (Ceejays) and weather (315)
 - 6.30 *Regional News* (Ceejays) (905)



Jill Dando focuses on the Lake District (7.00pm)

- 7.00 *Holiday*, Jill Dando tries life on the other side of the camera on a photography holiday in the Lake District. Sankha Guha divides his time between the idyllic beaches of Zanzibar and Tanzania's Selous game reserve; Paul Gogarty finds a holiday on Lake Garda's shores for under £200; and Kirsty Young does some serious Christmas shopping at America's largest mall in Minnesota (Ceejays) (s) (506)
- 7.30 *Eastenders*, Roy offers Pat a solution to their problems (Ceejays) (s) (179)
- 8.00 *Sportsnight Special: UEFA Cup — Third Round*, Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage of Nottingham Forest's UEFA Cup third-round, first-leg match against French side Lyon, from the City Ground. With Alan Hansen and Jimmy Hill (30323841)
- 9.55 *News, Regional News & Weather* (443006)
- 10.25 *Film: Blood Ties* (1991) starring Harley Venton and Kim Johnston-Ulinch. A ritual killing in rural Texas, a California court case and a multi-million dollar land development are linked to a family with vampire blood in their veins. Directed by Jim McBride (Ceejays) (s) (2918888) **WALEs**, 10.25 *Week in Week Out* 11.00 *The Dragon Wakes* Back 11.10 *Film: Blood Ties* 12.40-12.50am *Film: Martha, Ruth and Edie*
- 11.55 *Film: Martha, Ruth and Edie* (1988) starring Jennifer Davis, Andrea Martin and Lois Maxwell. Three women are thrown together at a self-awareness conference when they are locked out of a seminar. Seizing the opportunity, they share a series of love and lust. Directed by Daniele Luchini. Norma Bailey and Deepa Mehta (Ceejays) (s) (852976)
- 1.25am *Weather* (3197483)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 9.55am-10.00am *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 12.20pm-12.30pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 12.30pm-12.40pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 12.40pm-12.50pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 12.50pm-1.00pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 1.00pm-1.10pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 1.10pm-1.20pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 1.20pm-1.30pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 1.30pm-1.40pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 1.40pm-1.50pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 1.50pm-2.00pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 2.00pm-2.10pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 2.10pm-2.20pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 2.20pm-2.30pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 2.30pm-2.40pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 2.40pm-2.50pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 2.50pm-3.00pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 3.00pm-3.10pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 3.10pm-3.20pm *Anglia News and Weather* (796222) 3.20pm-3.30pm *Anglia News and Weather* 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Briton shrugs off puncture problems in daring pursuit of world title

McRae defies odds to keep Sainz in sight

BY OLIVER HOLT

COLIN MCRAE turned comic strip hero yesterday as he defied nature and his fellow man to keep alive his hopes of becoming Great Britain's first world rally champion. He trailed Carlos Sainz, his teammate and sole title rival, at the end of the second day of the Network Q RAC Rally, but that he is still there fighting back at the Spaniard is a tribute to his almost demonic determination.

The forest wildernesses of the North threw everything they could at him and nearly broke him. On the longest stage of the rally yesterday morning, the 36 miles of Pundershaw, he hit a rock and drove with a puncture for ten miles before the damage got so bad that he had to stop and change the tyre himself. He lost nearly two minutes to Sainz in one shattering blow.

He responded by setting the fastest time on the next two stages before the forest tracks had another go. He hit another rock on the Kershope stage and this time the damage was worse — a puncture, badly affected suspension and a twisted strut. He had to drive like that for seven miles and still finished the stage two seconds quicker than Sainz.

When he emerged from the stage, the last one in the notorious Kielder Forest complex that has accounted for so many competitors in the past, McRae and Derek Ringer, his co-driver, tried to straighten the mangled parts by hammering them with a log before limping to the next service area, at Penrith 45 miles away, where mechanics waited to correct the problem. He managed it all without incurring any time penalties.

Sainz, who was level on points with McRae going into this, the final event of the season, made no attempt to

disguise his admiration for his rival's efforts. "I'm trying my hardest and driving at the absolute maximum," he said, "but Colin's doing better."

"He has been lucky, too, taking a lot of risks. If he had damaged his suspension on a stage when there had been another one straight after, he would be out of the contest. I don't really have any tactics for trying to stay ahead of him, apart from driving as quickly as I can."

McRae, who had astonished the rest of the field with a bravura drive on the first stage of the day, at

DETAILS

OVERALL POSITIONS (after 14 stages):
1. C Sainz and L Moya (Sp, Subaru) 2hr 32min 37sec; 2. C McRae and D Ringer (GB, Subaru) 2:24:16; 3. K Eriksson and S Forsman (Swe, Mitsubishi) 2:25:36; 4. R Burns and R Reid (GB, Subaru) 2:28:44; 5. B Thury and S Prevot (Bel, Ford) 2:28:46; 6. A McRae and C Wood (GB, Ford) 2:29:05; 7. G de Menezes and J Foron (Bra, Ford) 2:34:16; 8. A Navarra and R Casazza (It, Toyota) 2:35:05

Today's stages
Stage 15 — Dynant, 13.46 miles
Stage 16 — Hadden, 16.84 miles
Stage 17 — Breckda, 20.27 miles
Stage 18 — Trawscoed, 22.82 miles
Stage 19 — Dychan, 10.51 miles
Stage 20 — Clyn, 5.64 miles
Stage 21 — Sweetamb, 17.90 miles

Hamsterley, that was 28 seconds faster than that of his nearest challenger, set the quickest times on the final two stages in the Grizedale Forest, too, wiping 18 seconds from his rival's lead.

He came to grief there for several years in succession in the past, either through mistakes or misfortune, but he banished all thoughts of failure from his mind as dusk fell yesterday and ended the day back at the overnight halt in Chester just 39 seconds behind Sainz, charging for all he was worth. There is still all to play for when the rally heads into the Welsh forests today.

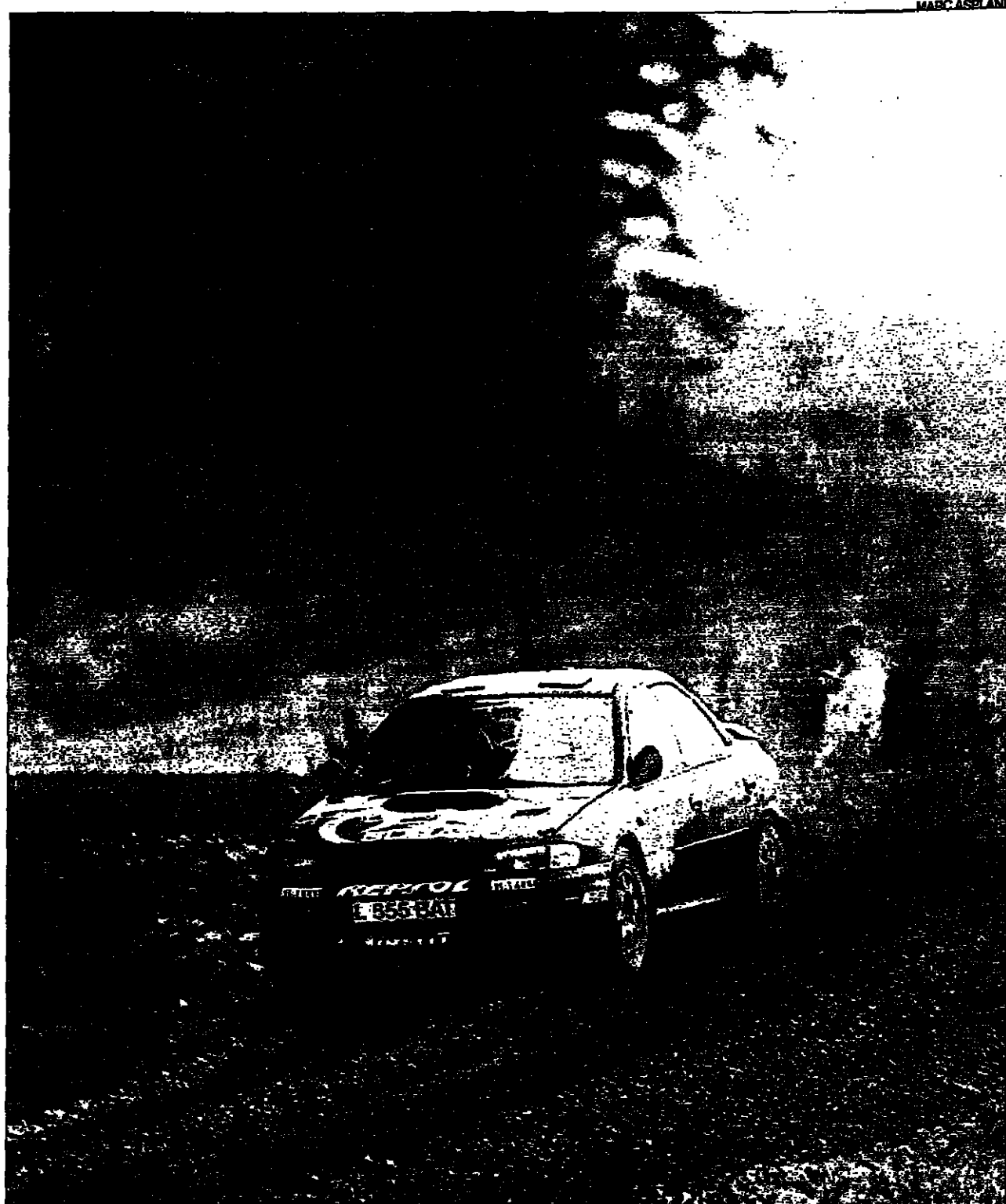
"They have generally been good stages today," McRae said, "but the punctures caused us problems. The suspension problem was not as bad as it looked, but the punctures meant much more trouble. I have been going as quick as I can to try to close up on the massive lead that Carlos had and I'm happy I have closed some of the gap."

After the cat-and-mouse antics of the first day and the almost identical times set by Sainz and McRae, yesterday was one of wildly contrasting fortunes. The Scot lost one big chunk but set the fastest times on five of the day's seven stages. Sainz was steady, always controlled, but he is like a hunted man now, a victim of the adrenalin coursing through his team-mate.

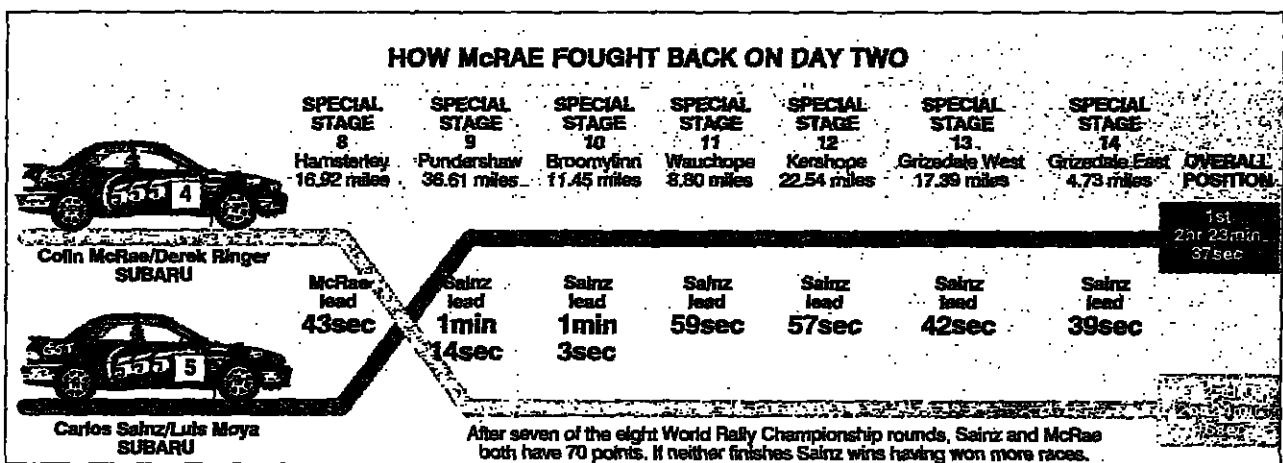
The day had begun well for the Scot, who became the first Briton to win his home event for 18 years when he triumphed last year. Tommi Mäkinen, the overnight leader, was forced to retire after the first stage when his Mitsubishi Lancer sustained severe suspension damage. His early exit increased the chances of McRae's Subaru team snatching the constructors' title to go with the drivers' championship that is already guaranteed them.

Then the puncture struck on the next stage. While McRae was recovering at the stage end, Sainz arrived in need of help, too, his car out of water and overheating badly. The Spanish double world champion had to get his hands dirty under the bonnet, too.

From then on, McRae chipped away at the lead, desperately trying to make up for lost time. If he does not win the rally and the championship after his performance yesterday, he has at least won large helpings of respect from the other drivers. Richard Burns, the third Subaru factory driver, found the Scot's time on the first stage hard to believe. "I wouldn't like to have been sitting beside him," he said.



McRae at full throttle on the Pundershaw stage of the Network Q RAC Rally, where he was beset by tyre trouble



Rain denies England workout

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PRETORIA

AFTER a period of rain spanning four successive days that the sages and elders of South African cricket consider unprecedented, the first Test was two minutes short of a resumption here yesterday when the heavens opened again. "I think it is trying to tell us something," Michael Atherton, a resigned England captain, said as this anti-climactic occasion was instantly abandoned.

England, therefore, were denied even the consoling pleasures of an afternoon's workout in which the South Africans might just have been embarrassed on a pitch released, perspiring, from three days under cover. "A pity," Atherton said. "When the rain began on Friday we felt we were in a strong position because the pitch was going to get worse to bat on, more uneven in bounce."

He would not have expected the opposition to agree, and they did not. Peter Pollock, the convenor of the South Africa selectors, said: "In our planning for this game, we hoped to score 500 and bowl England out again." Less fancifully, Bob Woolmer, the coach, said: "You cannot take two days of cricket as a yardstick for the series."

Lara released by Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE yesterday released Brian Lara from his three-year contract — effectively ending his Edgbaston career. The West Indies batsman, 26, who helped Warwickshire win an unprecedented treble of county titles in 1994, agreed the deal earlier this year but asked to be given next summer off to rest after a hectic international schedule.

The county reluctantly agreed, despite the fact that long-serving overseas player Allan Donald had taken a job on their coaching staff. They have now been linked with Donald's fellow South African pacesman Shaun Pollock

for next season. Pollock has already met Warwickshire's director of coaching, Phil Neale.

Dennis Amiss, the Warwickshire chief executive, said: "We discussed the situation thoroughly with Brian. When he said he didn't want to play in 1996, we could see his side of things. After two years of non-stop cricket, he couldn't face another season in England straight away."

"I think he also understood our position for 1997 once Allan Donald had indicated that he would be available for that season."

adequately the medical specialists retained by South African. "I have told them that we are trying to professionalise our cricket and that players must get the right sort of attention," he said. "It will not happen again." The impression was that at least three sets of ears were burning.

The South Africa selectors, however, continue to be deaf to the clamour for the inclusion of Paul Adams, the left-arm spin bowler who makes unorthodox an art form. In naming their 12 for the second Test, Pollock's panel merely replaced the unfit Schultz with Meyrick Pringle, the swing bowler. Pringle did the bat-

trick against England in Soweto last month but will hardly strike fear and confusion into the touring team, as Adams might have done.

Pollock expects Clive Elstern, the spin bowler retained in the squad, to play on his home ground at the Wanderers in Johannesburg, but gave a depressing explanation of his role. "He will do a similar job to Craig Matthews," he said. "He will keep other words, simply keep things tight." "It would be nice to have spinners who can take wickets but we know what Clive can do best." Not, clearly, bowl people out.

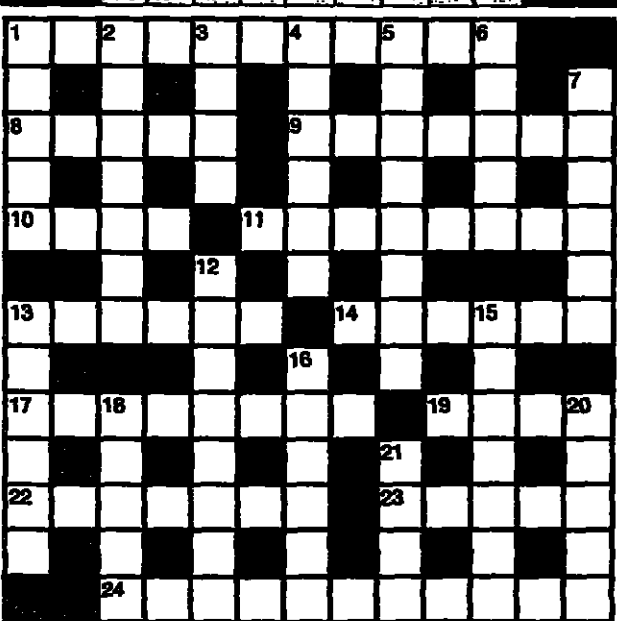
Another South African who will not be doing that during the coming week is Allan Donald. His province, Free State, provide England's opposition in Bloemfontein, starting on Thursday, but Donald is being rested on the instructions of the national selectors.

Donald is on a full-time contract with the South African board, as are all his teammates who have played upwards of three Tests, and it is the board which dictates whether or not he plays between international commitments. Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, nodded enviously when told. "It is very much the situation I want for our top players and in a year or two I think it could happen," he said.

Illingworth's more immediate problem is finding bowlers to leave out of his side in Bloemfontein, where the Test attack, denied any activity here, and the back-up bowlers who have been idle for more than a fortnight, are all queuing up to play.

Dominant Australia, page 46
Hussain inspires, page 46

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 632

ACROSS

- 1 Lose an opportunity (4,3,4)
- 8 Eight kings: O. —, US writer (5)
- 9 Most lovely (7)
- 10 Eg Man, Wight (4)
- 11 Digger, old food board (8)
- 13 Accomplished practitioner (6)
- 14 Dedicated to holy use (6)
- 17 In rags (8)
- 19 Instrument: part of ear (4)
- 22 Tercentenary composer (7)
- 23 Religious house (5)
- 24 Seat of Parliament (11)

DOWN

- 1 Muslim messianic leader (5)

ACROSS

- 2 Type of bar, of tennis match (7)
- 3 Plays idly (with) (4)
- 4 Struggle (6)
- 5 From the east (8)
- 6 Part of mouth: effective power (fig.) (5)
- 7 Laid aside for future use (6)
- 12 Judges (eg of scientific paper) (8)
- 13 Space between triglyphs (trize) (6)
- 15 Toasted cheese (7)
- 16 Situation of uproar (6)
- 18 Deliberately lose (game) (5)
- 20 Corporation head (5)
- 21 Hock: a manipulated person (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 631

ACROSS: 1 Gunga Din 5 Less 9 Time out of mind 10 Knit 11 Keynote 13 Armies 15 Squal 18 Tyndale 20 Alps 23 Lay down the law 24 Sude 25 Glad rags
DOWN: 1 Guts 2 No man 3 Apostle 4 Intake 6 Episode 7 Suddenly 8 Ify 12 Nautilus 14 Moneyed 16 Quashed 17 Kennel 19 Agog 21 Polka 22 Twas

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